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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects Shamir Proposal on Elections

AB0704184289 Paris AFP in French 1758 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Brazzaville, 7 Apr (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who has been on official visit to Congo since yesterday evening, today rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhar Shamir's proposal on the organization of free elections in the occupied Palestinian territories. Mr 'Arafat, who was addressing the (?militants) and cadres of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT) in the presence of Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, described Mr Shamir's statement in Washington as an "unwarranted pronouncement, as he is used to making."

Furthermore, the joint communique issued at the end of President 'Arafat's visit to Congo has condemned the "barbaric" Israeli policy in occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and appealed "for a total withdrawal from these territories by the Israeli army."

The two sides have also expressed their "concern" over the incidents that occurred in Namibia and reaffirmed their support for the struggle "of the Namibian people under the leadership of the South-West Africa People's Organization."

[Words indistinct], the PLO leader laid the cornerstone for the building of the PLO mission, now raised to the rank of Embassy of the State of Palestine in the People's Republic of Congo.

Khalaf Assails U.S. Position

NC0904162789 Paris AFP in English 1609 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, April 9 (AFP)—The United States must stop double-dealing in its policies on the Middle East, a top PLO official said here Sunday, stressing that the organisation was seeking firm results in its dialogue with Washington.

Reacting to recent statements by U.S. President George Bush, Salah Khalaf said: "The first impression... is that the new U.S. Administration has two faces and two languages, one for the Arabs and another for Israel.

"I don't believe that contradictory statements are in the interests of the cause of peace."

Palestinian officials have criticised Mr. Bush for backing a call from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir—issued during a recent visit to Washington—for elections in the Israeli-occupied territories.

PLO leaders insisted such polls could only take place after an Israeli withdrawal and under international supervision. But they also hailed Mr. Bush's statements expressing opposition to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Khalaf, who is better known as Abu Iyad, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Palestine Liberation Organisation was seeking concrete results from its dialogue with the United States, which opened in December.

"I hope that the United States will not adopt an attitude that sabotages the peace process and wastes the unique opportunity offered by the PLO's attitude," said Abu Iyad, who is second-in-command to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

He accused Israel of showing "excessive intransigence and reviving old projects that have been abandoned in drawers."

Washington opened its dialogue with the PLO on December 16, two days after Mr. 'Arafat explicitly recognized Israel's right to exist within secure borders and renounced terrorism.

Abu Iyad also said the PLO's political department chief, Faruq Qaddumi, was to visit France on May 3 at the invitation of the French Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Qaddumi has also been named foreign minister in a Palestinian state proclaimed last November by the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Al-Sa'ih Reiterates Rejection

JN0904134889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1242 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, 9 Apr (WAKH)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has reiterated the PLO's rejection of holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip before the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from these territories. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is now calling for such elections.

In a statement to QNA today, Al-Sa'ih said that in its final statement following its meetings in Tunis last week, the PLO Central Council stressed its rejection of the idea of elections as a whole and in detail as long as the occupation continues. He added that the idea was also rejected and condemned by the occupied land's masses, figures, and leaderships.

Al-Sa'ih described the idea as a waste of time and an illusion intended to foil the just and comprehensive march of peace in the region. He said that escalating the intifadah [uprising] is the only way to repel the occupation and recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate

rights in their homeland, pointing out that the international peace conference constitutes an ideal way to solve the problem peacefully and bring about a comprehensive and just solution to the region's dispute.

Asked about reports on U.S. President George Bush's support for the idea of elections in the occupied territories advocated by Shamir, Shaykh Al-Sa'ih expressed hope that the new U.S. Administration will be able to assess the anticipated terrible dangers if the current situation continues in the occupied territories, urging the United States not to continue its indifference to the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights in their homeland and to deal with the Arab-Israeli dispute more seriously.

Habash Rejects Proposal

NC0904130489 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has stressed that the popular uprising, which has entered its 17th month, is an act of struggle that has transformed the historic slogan of a Palestinian state into an achievable objective. He called for further sacrifices and a clear definition of the tasks of struggle so that a Palestinian state might indeed materialize.

Habash pointed out that the U.S.-Israeli tactics to hold elections in the occupied territory have been unequivocally rejected by the Central Council. He stressed that the uprising will continue until freedom and independence are achieved.

In an exclusive statement to the Voice of the People, Habash said that the dialogue between the United States and the PLO is a victory imposed by the uprising, and not a result of concessions. He pointed out, however, that through this dialogue, the U.S. Administration aims to foil the uprising or, at least, undermine the internal Palestinian front. He emphasized that the masses involved in the uprising will be able to continue the struggle, impose recognition of the Palestinian people's right, and establish a just state.

Habash declared that the PFLP's decision to continue the uprising inside the occupied territory means escalating and expanding the scope of the uprising, bringing about democratic reforms within the PLO, and continuing the armed struggle against the Israeli forces from all Arab fronts. He pointed out that the PFLP considers the uprising to be an outcome and the high point of the armed struggle, and not an end to that stage.

On Resolution 242, Habash noted that the decision was a basic point of disagreement between the PFLP and the PLO groups. He pointed out that the PFLP then made a decision not to give Israel a gift by creating a rift within the PLO at that sensitive stage.

He said that the PFLP will remain within the PLO framework as long as the latter adheres to the goal of establishing a Palestinian state and continuing the uprising until this goal is achieved. Habash expects the uprising to develop in scope along with the Palestinian groups, the Lebanese nationalist movement, and the Arab liberation movement. He pointed to the effects of the uprising on the Arab and Palestinian arenas. The PFLP secretary general stressed his support and backing for the Lebanese nationalist movement.

Asked if Yasir 'Arafat handed the Palestinian gun to General Michel 'Awn, Habash said: What counts is not what this or that leader says, but to determine how the revolutionary process proceeds inside and outside the occupied land.

Al-Husayni on Proposal

NC0904143589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in occupied Jerusalem and prominent popular leader in the West Bank, has described his talks today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as good and very positive. He said that they had reviewed the U.S. stand and the Egyptian view of this stand.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals in Washington regarding the Palestinian issue, Al-Husayni stated: It is not in fact a matter of elections. We are in favor of elections but the question is: What are these elections for? What are the circumstances surrounding them? I wonder, he said, whether there can be free and democratic elections under occupation and what would happen after these elections were held?

Al-Husayni spoke about the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], saying it had started out by opposing the occupation, in order to eliminate it, and will continue until the occupation has been eliminated. He noted that the intifadah has more than one aspect. There is the aspect we see now, in the form of stonethrowing, demonstrations, and clashes with the Israeli army.

The other aspect, he stated, is the reconstruction of Palestinian society before the establishment of a Palestinian state. He noted that this aspect will remain evident even after the Palestinian state has been established.

Al-Husayni pointed out that any Arab rapprochement is in the interest of the Palestinian cause. Therefore, he said, the Palestinians support all Arab contacts that aim to unify the Arabs in resisting the Israeli occupation. He noted that a genuine Arab solidarity would be able to support and back the Palestinian intifadah.

He asserted that, through Arab unity, the Palestinians could achieve their goal of establishing a Palestinian state.

Commentary Criticizes Proposal

JN0804211089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1654 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] So, the Israeli enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has returned from Washington to the land of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to receive condolences on the death of his ugly plan, which was destined to live for no more than a few minutes after its birth at the U.S. White House.

The U.S. Administration was expecting its Israeli ally to come up with new ideas contributing to the advancement of the peace process in the Middle East, according to terms used by U.S. officials. For many long months, Yitzhaq Shamir continued to promote expectations that he would come up with surprises not expected by the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people know what Shamir stands for—part and parcel, framework and essence. Shamir, who represents the height of Israeli political stupidity, has been looking for an impossibility: a wedge to be driven between the PLO and the valiant intifadah [uprising] masses in the occupied homeland.

This was Shamir's preoccupation until he reached this novelty, which fails to deceive even Palestinian children—the novelty of holding local elections under occupation to produce negotiators to head, with Yitzhaq Shamir, toward limited self-rule.

This is Shamir's plan, which he proposed to his allies in Washington, as if with this the stupid man seeks to belittle Palestinian national consciousness, which has brought about the great intifadah against the occupation. Shamir represents the most stupid aspect of the Israeli political mentality.

He is a fossil, who persists in various forms of arrogance and hubris even when he is mired in the mud of defeat, even when living amidst the raging fires of the intifadah, and even when he sees the retreat and vanishing of his era and the pervasiveness and coming to the surface of the victorious Palestinian era.

Otherwise, how are we to understand that he left for Washington carrying with him these hoaxes called local elections under occupation designed to fragment Palestinian national unity, which has triumphed over all conspiracies that sought to liquidate and fragment the Palestinian cause?

The U.S. Administration itself is holding a dialogue with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Is there any other address for the Palestinian people, wherever their masses reside? These questions never mean that the PLO wishes to see Shamir and other Israeli occupation leaders admit the facts pertaining to the PLO, because the PLO—its people, its intifadah, and its valiant masses in the occupied homeland—will wrest this admission sooner or later.

Sooner or later, the Israeli enemy leaders will have to succumb to the firmly based Palestinian reality—the reality echoing and reverberating throughout the entire world. These are facts.

As for the ugly and dead conspiracies, as for the ridiculous Israeli bickering on the status of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and as the leader of their revolution and [word indistint] intifadah, they are bound to end up in [words indistinct].

This travesty will not live long, even if supplied with intensive U.S. first aid. This travesty was declared dead the moment it was born, as it was born with the causes of its death. This travesty was finished off by one Palestinian stone, no more and no less. For the Israeli mentality to free itself of Shamir's grips in the future, it must abandon these delusions. Otherwise, the growing intifadah will escalate to force it to abandon these delusions in the end.

Through the well-known monthly report prepared by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, the Israeli military mentality raised the white flag in the face of the loftiness and giant stature of the valiant intifadah. The Israeli military minds frankly told the Israeli political leaders that the Palestinian intifadah has the components required to enable it to continue for a few more years and that the last option left for Israel is to negotiate with the PLO and to accept a Palestinian state after a transitional period of 10 to 15 years.

Hence, the Palestinian people are not leaving the time factor to their enemy's calculations, as they are forging ahead all the time, armed with their victorious will, to their legitimate national objectives. Therefore, the Palestinian state is bound to materialize. The valiant intifadah has forced the experts and minds of the Israeli military establishment at the Jaffee Center to recognize this fact.

The Palestinian people, with their revolution and great intifadah under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative and the leader of their struggle toward the great victory, are proceeding to defeat the occupation, regardless of the disgrace of its leaders and regardless of how bestial are the crimes committed by the occupation leaders.

Sha'th Discusses PLO Dialogue With U.S.

JN0904154889 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Apr 89 pp 52-54

[Interview with Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Salwa Abu Sa'dah—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu Sa'dah] You visited the United States after being granted an entry visa and you, along with a Palestinian delegation, attended the conference "The Road to Peace in the Middle East." What is your assessment of the U.S. position at the current stage?

[Sha'th] First of all, this is the first time the United States has granted entry visas to PLO representatives outside the framework of New York and the United Nations. They were really the first such visas granted to the PLO because since 1974 and following Kissinger's pledge to Israel that there would be no dialogue or contact with the PLO except according to the known conditions—all direct U.S.-Palestinian contacts and dialogues were banned.

I had earlier traveled to the United States either to attend the UN sessions or in my personal capacity, but this was the first time that the United States granted political visas. I said in the visa application that I am a PLO representative applying for a visa to attend poltical conferences and explain the Palestine question to U.S. public opinion. I was granted the visa accordingly.

[Abu Sa'dah] What, in your opinion, is the importance of that U.S. step now?

[Sha'th] The importance is not confined to granting the visa, but goes beyond that to what the United States made available to us upon our arrival there. It opened the various news media to us and enabled us to hold several meetings with senior U.S. personalities in Washington and New York. This, in my opinion, expresses a U.S. desire to expand the circle of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and, consequently, expand recognition of the PLO. [passage omitted]

[Abu Sa'dah] Let us move on to the current U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. What are the main points of discussion? What is the PLO's viewpoint? What are the most positive points in the U.S. position, if there are any?

[Sha'th] The most important positive points are declared and not secret. The U.S.-Palestinian meeting held on 22 March was the first substantial meeting to discuss the issue and not the details, definitions, or margins. The meeting lasted 5 and ½ hours and was mutually positive. Each side expressed its viewpoint.

There were some points of agreement and many of disagreement. What was agreed upon was announced by the United States through James Baker's statements in the press or the U.S. House of Representatives in an encounter with House committees.

What is most agreed upon is that the United States is heading toward admitting that the PLO is the sole Palestinian negotiator. It is not asking itself to make this admission but is asking Israel to do so.

Baker placed Israel in the picture when he said that when Israel loses hope of finding negotiating partners outside the PLO it will be compelled to recognize the PLO and hold dialogue with it. Israel should not rule out this possibility, but embark on it.

In another part of his statement, Baker also said: I do not see any negotiator other than the PLO. This is an important development, which has been sought by the PLO for a long time.

Second, Baker said: I believe that the final solution should be discussed now and before any agreements on the phased solutions. This is also what the PLO demands.

Third, Baker defined the features of the final solution by saying: The final solution represents a precise balance between the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights and Israel's legitimate security rights. By this, he defined the political rights and security needs.

When Bush called for an excahnge of land for peace, we reached a concerted definition. The basic issue is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state—a right that has not yet been recognized by the United States. The independent state is the demand of the Palestinian people.

For the United States, this demand is as important as Israel's security because what has so far governed declared U.S. policy is its effort to protect Israel's security. However, the U.S. Administration's denial of its desire to end the intifadah [uprising] is another gain. Frankly speaking, the U.S. Administration did not ask, at any moment during the recent meeting in Tunis, for an end to the intifadah.

[Abu Sa'dah] We have heard about demands for easing the intifadah and the attacks against Israel in return for a reduction of Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinians?

[Sha'th] This is true. But the United States has confined these demands to stopping infiltration across the northern borders and ending the use of firebombs. U.S. calls for easing the tension are restricted to these two points. The PLO replied through its delegation that, regarding the first point, there can be an agreement on a reciprocal cease-fire. We will end the infiltration operations if Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon and ends its air raids on the camps and its siege of the ports. The situation requires a joint solution. [passage omitted]

[Abu Sa'dah] How do you assess U.S. reponse to the PLO's concept of the need to continue the intifadah?

[Sha'th] There is an actual U.S. response. Within only 4 days, the United States abandoned its demand for an end to demonstrations and publications. Instead, it asked for ending the firebomb attacks. This is an important U.S. retreat in favor of our position.

We say that the intifadah is the mother of peace, and the Palestinian peace march is supported by the intifadah. Any end to the intifadah means an end to the peace march. Any end to the intifadah should be coupled with an end to the occupation.

[Abu Sa'dah] These are the positive aspects in the U.S. position. But what about its position on the convening of the international conference and the idea of direct negotiations?

[Sha'th] We insist on the international conference. We also say that any direct negotiations should constitute a preparatory dialogue and not an alternative to the conference. The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is direct, but we do not view it as a vehicle for solving the problem. However, it creates a framework for the international conference, which we want as soon as possible. This is a Palestinian, Arab, and international demand.

The U.S. position on the international conference is hesitant. Sometimes the United States says it supports a bilateral conference, that is, a conference supervised by the United States and the Soviet Union. Sometimes it says it supports a conference as an umbrella, and sometimes it says it supports direct talks between the parties to the conflict.

As I imagine, the United States has not yet adopted a decisive position on this issue, but it does not reject outright the international conference. It does not accept an effective conference as we define it. It stands in the middle. The Americans have not yet made up their mind.

[Abu Sa'dah] Does the current dialogue with the Americans touch on the issue of the form of authority in the occupied territories?

[Sha'th] We can talk about the future Palestinian national authority after the Israeli withdrawal or when an agreement on this withdrawal is reached. We do not object to the holding of elections and a referundum on full Israeli withdrawal. Indeed, it will be necessary to hold these elections to create local institutions, although this also is not necessary [sentence as published].

Israel itself did not hold elections until 2 years and 3 months after its creation. The question of who represents the Palestinians is clear. Everybody, even the United States, knows clearly that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians. Holding elections is not a crucial issue at the beginning. It is possible to form a national Palestinian authority in the occupied territories under PLO supervision at any time.

However, insistence on holding the elections in the time being does not stem from eagerness for democracy but is rather a tactic aimed at stalling for time and claiming that elections cannot be held until after the intifadah has stoped. We say that the intifadah cannot be stopped except after the Israeli withdrawal.

Elections, therefore, cannot be held unless the withdrawal is achieved. If necessary, elections will be held under UN supervision.

[Abu Sa'dah] What is the extent of PLO optimism with the current U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

[Sha'th] The latest meeting caused optimism, but we do not want to stop at this stage. We want the dialogue to reach a stage at which the United States unequivocally recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. We will then move to the international conference. We have offered much, and we demand that the United States acknowledge that the Palestinian state is a right of the Palestinian people. After this, all detailed issues can be discussed at the international conference.

[Abu Sa'dah] How far has Egyptian-Palestinian coordination gone, especially in light of President Mubarak's forthcoming meeting with President Bush and other U.S. officials? Are there specific Palestinian demands?

[Sha'th] There is constant, full coordination at all levels. The PLO was eager to inform President Mubarak about all developments in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. What is important at this stage are efforts to achieve the international conference and deeper U.S. recognition of the PLO. Efforts are also needed to clarify the ultimate aim of the peace process, that is, toward deepening U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, especially since these people were asked to recognize the ultimate solution before the beginning of talks.

This is not debatable; what is open for discussion is how to achieve the solution and provide security guarantees. The issue of the independent Palestinian state can never be moot.

Qaddumi 'Prudently Favorable' Toward Bush Remark

LD0804114289 Algiers APS in English
1020 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8/4/89 (APS)—The foreign minister in the State of Palestine, Faruq Qaddumi, said he was "prudently favorable" [about] the latest statements of American President George Bush on the necessity to put an end to the occupation of Arab territories by Israel.

In a press conference at the end of his three day visit in the United Arab Emirates, Qaddumi termed as "positive signs" the statements of George Bush and underlined "the development in the position and political terminology of the USA which provided a constant support to Israel".

"We can not be reassured by mere words, but these statements must be followed by clearer positions", he said.

"In my mind, Qaddumi said, the statement of Bush means the American support, to a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories of the Palestinian Bank and Gaza".

He added that PLO which has started a dialogue with the American Administration must be "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" following the statement of George Bush.

"We have not yet received any clarification from the USA on its views concerning the political rights of the Palestinian people, but we shall obtain an answer", he added.

Qaddumi Reportedly Invited To Visit Damascus

NC0704213989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—The weekly newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports in tomorrow's, Saturday's, edition that Syria has extended an invitation to Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the state of Palestine, to visit Damascus with the aim of improving relations between the two sides.

The paper reports that Algeria conveyed Syria's invitation, which paves the way for an invitation to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Mediation Termed 'Successful'

JN0904115889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 9 Apr (WAKH)—Newspaper reports said in Doha today that Algeria has been successful in the mediation efforts that it recently exerted between the PLO and Syria together with some of the Palestinian faction leaderships residing in the Syrian capital.

The Qatari newspaper, AL-RAYAH, cited close Palestinian sources as saying that an Algerian delegation returned to Algiers from Damascus yesterday after it held several contacts with the Syrian leadership and the Palestinian leaderships residing there.

These meetings, the sources said, resulted in an agreement to hold meetings between the two sides, the Palestinian and Syrian, after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr [feast marking the end of Ramadan, approximately 7 or 8 May]. The meetings will be held in the Syrian capital.

The newspaper said the PLO leadership decided to choose PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, to chair the Palestinian side in the dialogue with Syria.

Israel Sinks Popular Struggle Front Vessel

Casualties Reported

NC0904083789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] According to Palestinian sources in the south, a group from the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, which was on its way to carry out an operation inside Israel, clashed with the Israeli navy at sea at a point close to the Lebanese-Israeli border in Al-Bayyadah. The sources said that the Palestinian group suffered casualties.

For its part, Israel has said that a clash took place last night between an Israeli naval unit and a rubber dinghy carrying several gunmen, and that the dinghy was sunk.

Further on Sinking of Vessel

NC0904104489 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Jerusalem, April 9 (AFP)—The Israeli navy sank a "terrorist" boat overnight off the northern Israeli coast, killing all those aboard, Israeli military officials said Sunday.

An Israeli high-speed gunboat spotted the rubber dinghy off Rosh Haniqra, an Israeli town on the Mediterranean coast near the Lebanese border, the officials said.

Other northern Israel coastal towns were immediately put on alert as the navy sent additional ships to the area and aircraft dropped flares.

A Palestinian group later claimed responsibility for the operation in a communique released in the south Lebanon port city of Sidon.

Samir Ghawshah's Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF), which does not belong to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), said its guerrillas clashed for nearly five hours with the Israeli navy.

The clash involved an array of weapons and two Israeli helicopters intervened, said the PPSF communique, which did not immediately reveal the number of guerrillas involved nor what happened to them.

It was the 12th infiltration attempt launched from south Lebanon by Palestinian groups since PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated December 14 that his organization had "renounced terrorism".

Most of the operations were over land, but three PPSF guerrillas drowned December 26 off the south Lebanon coast after a clash with the Israeli navy.

4 Reported Killed

NC0904123589 Paris AFP in English 1222 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, April 9 (AFP)—Four Palestinian guerrillas, including a woman, were killed in a clash with the Israeli navy overnight in waters off the Lebanese-Israeli border, security sources here said.

Military officials in Jerusalem said earlier that Israeli gunboats sank a rubber dinghy carrying "terrorists" off Rosh Haniqra, an Israeli town on the Mediterranean coast near the border.

The Popular Struggle Front (PSF) of Samir Ghawshah, which does not belong to the PLO, claimed responsibility for the infiltration bid.

A Fijian officer with a United Nations peacekeeping force said the dinghy and Israeli units traded rocket and automatic weapons fire off the border post of Ra's al-Naqurah in what he called a "real battle".

Israeli helicopters hovered over the area for five hours firing as many as 60 flares, according to the officer, who was manning a nearby observation post.

Shi'ite Moslem Amal militiamen intervened with several rounds of artillery and anti-aircraft fire targeting the Israeli units, a correspondent at the scene reported.

Northern Israel coastal towns were immediately put on alert as the navy sent additional ships to the area and aircraft dropped flares, Israeli military officials said. [passage omitted]

Habash: Operations Against Israel To Continue
JN0904133089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] On the occasion of the 17th month of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash, in a call issued from Damascus today, said that the coming months will witness further escalation and continuity of the intifadah and further armed struggle in the occupied territories and across the borders. He added that the Palestinian people will not stop until they achieve their objectives.

Egypt

Clash With Fundamentalists Reported at Al-Fayyum

Policeman Hurt in Clash

NC0804105289 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 8 (AFP)—A police officer was wounded and 37 Muslim fundamentalists arrested during armed clashes after Friday prayers at Al-Fayyum, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Cairo, Egypt's semi-official press reported Saturday.

Among those arrested was Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, a blind theologian whem the press described as the leader of the Al-Jihad movement. Members of the movement were convicted for the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat.

The violence erupted after Shaykh Umar urged worshippers at Al-Fayyum's main mosque, during ceremonies marking the first day of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, to "demonstrate against the ruling regime."

The demonstrators "shot firearms and threw stones at police" after emerging from the mosque, the reports said. Police intervened, dispersing the demonstrators and making the arrests.

Further on Clash

JN0904203789 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Apr 89 p 1

[By Ahmad al-Jubayli]

[Text] A gunfight between Islamic groups and police forces occurred in Al-Fayyum following Friday prayers yesterday. Al-Fayyum Police Commissioner Colonel Muhammad Sayf al-Islam was wounded by a bullet and taken to the hospital in critical condition. A number of Islamists also sustained bullet wounds, and a state of emergency was proclaimed in Al-Fayyum to contain the situation.

Members of the Al-Jihad group chanted some slogans following yesterday's Friday prayers at the Al-Shuhada' mosque on the land of Mustafa Hasan in the Dar al-Ramad district. Police forces surrounded them and a 30-minute gunfight occurred between the two sides.

Jihad Leader Detained

NC0904123989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 9 Apr (MENA)—The Al-Fayyum prosecution office under Usamah Qandil has decided to detain Al-Jihad Organization Mufti Dr 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, along with nine of his followers for 15 days pending interrogation, for the incident that took place after the Friday prayers at the Al-Shuhada' Mosque in the Dar al-Ramad quarter in Al-Fayyum 2 days ago. An armed clash occurred between 'Abd al-Rahman's followers and policemen, during which the Bandar al-Fayyum police commissioner was wounded by a bullet in his foot and four other persons were injured.

Further Demonstrations Reported

NC1004081589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The inhabitants of the towns of (Al-Mudammir), Al-'Ataminah and Mashitan in Suhaj Governorate in Egypt have staged wide-scale demonstrations to protest the repressive measures of the ruling regime during the past 2 days. Demonstrators clashed with the police and the so-called riot police who tried to suppress the demonstrations. Several Muslim leaders were arrested on charges of disturbing the peace and shouting anti-government slogans and they were then imprisoned.

Islamic groups in Suhaj have issued statements holding the Mubarak regime responsible for persecuting the inhabitants of the aforementioned towns.

Economic Committee With U.S. Established

NC0804160989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 8 Apr (MENA)—It was learned here today that Egypt and the United States have agreed to set up a joint committee that will deal with economic and financial issues between the two countries and will seek solutions to any existing or future problems or complications.

A U.S. team is expected to leave for Cairo to begin the work of the committee as soon as consultations on the establishment of the committee, which will comprise senior officials from both countries, have been completed.

Agreement on the committee follows intensive talks held in Washington by Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs, and Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. The two ministers left Washington last night after a meeting with 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egyptian ambassador to the United States, during which they reviewed the results of their week-long talks.

'Abd al-Majid on Mubarak Visit to U.S.

NC0804155189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1404 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington and his talks with President George Bush were very successful and achieved their goals. He noted that the visit had been important with regard to Egyptian-U.S. relations and peace moves.

'Abd al-Majid also declared that an atmosphere of complete understanding prevailed during the Mubarak-Bush talks, proceeding from an awareness that the momentum of the peace process must be maintained and from a desire to secure stability in the region. He noted that strong Egyptian-U.S. relations will enhance the chances for peace.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid commented on the meetings that President Mubarak held with U.S. congressmen, U.S. Chamber of Commerce officials, and members of the Foreign Policy Association. He said these meetings were successful and had fulfilled their objectives.

In his statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt's principled position toward the Palestinian issue still stands. This position, he added, is based on support for the Palestinian cause and a desire to reach a comprehensive peaceful settlement, accepted by all parties, within the framework of an international conference, that would guarantee the Palestinian people's national rights.

In conclusion, 'Abd al-Majid disclosed that the PLO representatives in Washington, New York, and Cairo had been briefed on President Mubarak's talks with the U.S. Administration.

AL-AHRAM Praises Visit

JN0804193489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Apr 89 p 3

[Editorial: "A Successful Visit and Tangible Steps"]

[Text] From all perspectives, President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States has succeeded and achieved tangible and real steps forward, whether on the road of peace in the Middle East, on solving Egypt's economic problems, or in the field of keeping Egypt's page clean following an unjust accusation that it is preparing to produce chemical weapons, which international law forbids.

The Americans themselves testified that the president's talks in Washington have knocked the ball strongly into Israel's court and confused its prime minister, even before he began his talks with U.S. officials, particularly after the U.S. President stated the need for convening the international conference and Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Thus, Egyptian diplomacy, which has been competently led by Mubarak for many years, pushed the Palestine question more and more toward a solution, after the United States agreed to hold a dialogue with the PLO moving toward realizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, which Washington used to ignore.

Undoubtedly, this diplomacy has achieved success once again because its bases are logical, the most distinguished being adherence to Arab rights. To this must be added the great confidence that Mubarak enjoys from his Arab brothers, particularly the Palestinian people and their leadership—represented in Yasir 'Arafat; King Husayn of Jordan; and King Fahd, monarch of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques.

Certainly, the meetings of brothers that President Mubarak held with President 'Arafat, King Husayn, and King Fahd in Egypt before his visit to the United States greatly contributed to the progress that was achieved in the U.S. position. This progress can be largely attributed to the Palestinian people's heroic intifadah [uprising].

In the United States, Mubarak sincerely represented the Palestinian people and their leadership when he said that the intifadah will not stop unless the Palestinian people find a solution to their cause that will restore to them their legitimate national rights.

On the other hand, following Mubarak's talks with them, the U.S. officials could avoid publicly declaring their conviction that economic reform in Egypt has another side, which is no less important. This is represented in considering the burdens that this reform will impose on poor citizens, about whom the president cares probably more than rich citizens. Here, one can say that Mubarak's talks with U.S. officials, which were continued in Washington by two Egyptian ministers, represent a good beginning for important steps in helping Egypt carry out economic reform without further burdens on the Egyptian people.

For this beginning, tangible results will soon appear in the form of an agreement between Egypt and the IMF. In this regard, one can say that relations with the United States have become clearer, more specific, and stronger as a consequence.

Through his talks, contacts, and statements, Mubarak removed the distorted picture that some had tried to pin on Egypt by distributing statements that it is preparing to produce chemical weapons and that pressures were exerted on it to refrain from doing so.

Thus, Mubarak's visit was very successful. However, the road is still long and requires vigilance, whether in the field of the peace process or in the field of reforming the economy and ridding it of all its previous shortcomings. With toil and sweat, we will reach the end of the road.

Press Notes 'Success' of Talks

NC0804093289 Cairo MENA in English 0646 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 8 (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Both AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH led their frontpage news with reports on the success President Mubarak scored in his talks in Washington.

AL-AHRAM's correspondent in the United States capital said the Egyptian economic delegation achieved important results in the talks they held with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] and with the United States Government and quoted Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and of state for administrative development, as saying the IBRD agreed to finance projects of a cost totalling 950 million dollars.

These include financing the projected Damietta power generating station, the cost of which amounted to 150 million dollars, allowing Egypt to reuse contracted loans which were not used because of their difficult terms amounting to 600 million dollars, the IBRD also agreed to Egypt's request for the use of a loan of 200 million dollars granted for the repair of industrial infrastructure as well as to financing renovation and modernization projects for industry.

AL-JUMHURIYAH quoted political and diplomatic sources in Cairo as saying President Mubarak's visit succeeded in achieving positive political and economic results.

The newspaper quoted observers as saying the president's visit to the United Stated capital marked the beginning of a new kind of relationship between Egypt and the United States, expressive of the fact that an economically strong and political stable Egypt, is a key to peace and stability in the Middle East.

The observers said that although the United States continued to regard Israel as a main pillar of its policy in the Middle East, it had begun to assume a more balanced attitude towards the moderate Arab regimes in the area and a more reasonable view on the Palestine issue, the newspaper added.

AL-JUMHURIYAH's correspondent in Washington reported that the two Egyptian ministers who held economic talks in Washington concluded these talks after achieving progress in their task, and that the U.S. Government agreed to allow Egypt greater flexibility in the use of American aid to Egypt. [passage omitted]

PLO's Kamal Praises Visit

NC0704104589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has praised the results of President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States. He said that the Palestinian leadership led by Yasir 'Arafat feels greatly satisfied with and appreciates the results of this visit.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal said that during this visit, President Mubarak laid down the principles of a just peace. U.S. President George Bush responded to these because of the wise policy President Mubarak embodies, particularly because he was eager to hold Arab, European, and international contacts before this visit.

Kamal said that the most important of these principles is ending the Israeli occupation of the territory occupied in 1967, convening a well-prepared international peace conference, and continuing the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. He pointed out that the policies prepared to implement these principles through the current contacts among the various parties will demonstrate whether the U.S. Administration is serious about the speedy implementation of these principles.

Cairo Dailies Comment on Shamir Peace Proposals

NC0804110689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 8 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM says that the talks held between Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. President George Bush in Washington have shown the two men to have deep differences of opinion over peace in the Middle East and the way to resolve the Palestinian issue.

Shamir has announced his plan to resolve the Palestinian issue. He said that peace should be established on the basis of the Camp David accords. Shamir said that the United States and Egypt should pressure Arab countries so that the latter will cease their hostility toward Israel and begin negotiations with that country. Shamir added that the United States should exert efforts to resolve the issue of Palestinian refugees and that Palestinian elections should be held in the West Bank and Gaza.

Another paper, AL-JUMHURIYAH, comments on the proposals which Shamir made in Washington in which he called for elections in the West Bank and Gaza. This proposal is merely designed to gain time, for the whole world, the paper says, considers the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, a fact which is constantly underlined by the heroes of the intifadah [uprising] and other Palestinian figures with different leanings.

AL-JUMHURIYAH voices the belief that Shamir's proposal aims to divide the Palestinians, an attempt which the paper says is doomed to fail. Shamir must be perfectly aware that the Palestinians are seeking peace and that their current attitude is moderate and positive.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Jerusalem Arab Notable

NC0904125089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, met with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in occupied Jerusalem and a popular leader in the

West Bank, this morning. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the efforts being made to establish peace in the Middle East.

Libya

JANA Denies Allegations of 'Terrorist Attacks'

LD0904085389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Apr, (JANA)—AFP carried a news item, which was quoted by 'THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH', which stated that Libya is allegedly preparing a number of terrorist attacks against U.S. targets, including airlines.

JANA's international affairs editor commented on these allegations. He said: It seems that U.S. and, particularly, Western mass media are determined to spread false and unfounded allegations harmful to the great Jamahiriyah and its noble and revolutionary stances, despite the fact we have more than once previously made it clear we are against the hijacking of planes and against all acts aimed at harming innocent people.

The editor said: In fact we are surprised by the stances taken of these hostile mass media and by the attitude of those who attribute such alleged news to the Jamahiriyah, because the stance of the great Jamahiriyah, which stems from a civilized and human position, is known to everyone and world public opinion is fully aware of it. World public opinion understands very well the aims of such false allegations, which are disseminated from time to time by the United States and Western intelligence services to pave the way for some behind-the-scenes plot.

The editor added that, stemming from this false position, which is determined to attribute false accusations despite repeated denials, we can only conclude that those who spread such false accusations are the very ones who are about to carry out terrorist attacks. To accuse others of carrying out such attacks is to expose the game played by the Reagan administration, when the whole world discovered its falsity after the incident at "La Belle" [nightclub] in West Berlin.

The editor pointed out that the whole world had condemned the Reagan administration, which had established a repulsive [word indistinct] definition. This definition disregards the interests of the U.S. people and attracts the condemnation of the entire world simply because it consists of Zionist, terrorist thought and interests, the sole objective of which is to smear the reputation of others.

The JANA international affairs editor added: We emphasize here that the civilized mind always believes in the resolution of problems via dialogue and reliance on the logic of reason. This is a humanitarian necessity [words indistinct] and we work (?in accordance with it) in taking our steps.

The JANA international affairs editor concluded his commentary by emphasizing that we again stress the groundlessness and untruthfulness of these allegations. We reaffirm our surprise at this strange insistence on the part of these sources in continuing with the propagation of these lies, which cannot in any way be understood by the civilized mind.

Foreign Ministry Source on Attack Allegations

LD0904151989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1458 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 9 April (JANA)—A source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liason and International Cooperation has commented on reports disseminated by some media in the United States and Western Europe embroiling the Jamahiriyah's name in what they described as terrorist operations being planned linking them with the 3d anniversary of the U.S., NATO aggression against Libya.

In a statement to JANA, the source said that like previous biased campaigns, this present one aims at defaming the Jamahiriyah and distorting its image in the eyes of world public opinion. It is also an attempt to divert the eyes of the world away from the 3d anniversary of the abortive aggression in a bid to camouflage this abominable crime through the fabrication of false accusations against the country that was the victim of the aggression, the source added.

The source also said that Libya has affirmed and continues to affirm that it denounces and opposes terrorism and that it was among the first countries to promulgate strict laws banning terrorism and considering it a crime subject to the most severe penalties.

While denouncing such cheap attempts to embroil its name in matters with which it has no connections, the source said, the Great Jamahiriyah affirms anew that it will stand constantly against all forms of terrorism, including the state terrorism of which it was a victim.

JANA Editor on 'Campaign of Disinformation'

LD0704185389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Apr (JANA)—The campaign against the great Jamahiriyah is being intensified these days by the colonialist forces under the pretext that the Jamahiriyah has acquired sophisticated weapons.

JANA's international affairs editor has commented on this campaign by saying: "The statements from the circles hostile to the great Jamahiriyah we are accustomed to come in the context of a campaign of disinformation and lies aimed at defaming the Jamahiriyah abroad."

The editor added: "The Jamahiriyah, which has affirmed and is affirming its constant eagerness to preserve international peace and security, will absolutely not depart from its options and (?principles) and will not give in to threats from any power."

The editor of international affairs concluded his comment by saying: "The Jamahiriyah warns against any attempted aggression and it will confront it with determination and resoluteness. It will also reserve its right to self- defense."

Sukhoi Aircraft Issue Discussed With Soviets

LD0804121589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Apr (JANA) - The Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning met in Tripoli with Vladimir Polyakov, member of the Coordination Bureau and director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bilateral cooperation was discussed during the meeting, as were a number of Arab and international issues and the campaign being launched by imperialist circles against the great Jamahiriyah and the Arab homeland (?over) the supply of Sukhoi aircraft by the Soviet Union to the great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Meeting Between Government, Rebels 'Positive'

NC0804202489 Paris AFP in English 1949 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, April 8 (AFP)—Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and a Sudanese Government delegation held their first formal meeting here Saturday, with the government side describing the talks as "positive".

(In Khartoum, Sudan's military command meanwhile reported that 110 rebels had died in clashes last week at Kadugli in the mountainous Balinga region of south Kordofan province.

(Government soldiers had seized arms and equipment, including a SAM-7 ground-to-air missile, a military communique added. It did not give Sudanese military casualties.)

The joint communique issued in Addis Ababa on Saturday described the proceedings as frank, serious and marked by a sense responsibility on both sides. A final meeting was scheduled for Sunday, it said.

Taysir Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali, a member of the three-man Sudanese delegation, said the talks "went very well indeed" but added that he was not ready to discuss the substance as yet.

His delegation was believed to have delivered messages and documents from Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. An eight-man ministerial peace committee was set up recently in Khartoum to head the peace process.

The authorities in Khartoum have said they want the rebels to know that the new cabinet and parliament have both endorsed the peace accord signed here on November 10 between the SPLA and Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). However, details still remain to be worked out on how the main provisions of the accord are to be carried out.

The accord provides for an end to the state of emergency, a ceasefire, the freezing of Islamic shari'ah law and the scrapping of Sudan's military pacts with foreign powers, ahead of a national constitutional conference which would decide the country's political future.

(Fighting in southern Kordofan, well to the north of the SPLA's usual zone of operations, was first reported at the end of March.

(In southern Sudan, a top United Nations official has negotiated an April ceasefire in order to transport some 120,000 tonnes of food aid to more than two million people, before the May rainy season begins.)

Southern Sudan has been devastated by nearly six years of bloody civil war between government forces and the SPLA, fighting plans to impose Islamic law throughout the country.

Rebels Claim Further Successes in Kordofan

EA0704172989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Korongo Abdullah Garrison town [approximately 350 miles southwest of Khartoum] in southern Kordofan has been liberated by the SPLA [Sudanese People's Libeation Army] combined forces of Meroe and (Tigeli) on 26th March 1989. The enemy barracks was completely burnt down in the battle, which lasted for 1 hour.

A correspondent says that the enemy auxiliary force composed of 47 men suffered very heavy casualties in men and materiel. Four enemy soldiers were killed, including a private identified as Mansur Adam 'Abdullah, Military No 26193. Several others were wounded and the rest ran in disarray. [passage omitted]

In another development, enemy forces attacked the new Kush Force at Korongo 'Abdullah on 31 March 1989. Fifty enemy soldiers were killed and 80 others were wounded in the battle, which lasted for 13 hours. [passage omitted]

SUNA: Defense Minister Leaves for Libya

EA0804200089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Apr (SUNA)—General Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah retired, the minister of defense, left for Libya today for a visit of several days during which he will hold talks with Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, the Libyan defense minister, on various aspects of military cooperation between the two countries.

The minister will also undertake similar visits to a number of Arab states during which he will discuss with his (?counterparts) support for military cooperation between Sudan and the fraternal countries he will be visiting.

Al-Mirghani: Visit to Saudi Arabia 'Successful'

EA0704172489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Apr (SUNA)—Council of State Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani has described his visit to Saudi Arabia as "very successful" and said it had "achieved its goals." Al-Mirghani, who yesterday ended his four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia said viewpoints between the two sides had been identical on all the issues under review. Al-Mirghani has hailed the assistance Saudi Arabia has been extending to the Sudan in times of crisis.

In the press conference he held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Al-Mirghani pointed out that he had briefed King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Saudi officials on the recent developments in the Sudan. Al-Mirghani was accompanied by Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, and Mining and Energy Minister Dr. Bashir 'Umar Fadlallah.

Tunisia

AFP: Ben Ali Sworn In as President 9 Apr

NC0904152189 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, April 9 (AFP)—Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was sworn in Sunday as Tunisian president after his unopposed election to a five-year term, 16 months after he eased out his predecessor, Habib Bourguiba, on grounds of senility.

Mr. Ben Ali told the new parliament he would soon propose a law to amnesty "persons who have been condemned for their opinions or their political affiliations." Since his rise to the job from that of prime minister, he has freed many political prisoners, but not all have been granted full political rights, which would be restored under the new measure.

Mr. Ben Ali, 53, made the proposal in his inaugural speech to the new parliament—composed entirely of members of his Constitutional Democratic Rally—delivered a week after he won 99.27 per cent of the votes cast in the presidential election in which he was the sole candidate.

Delivers Inaugural Address

LD0904111589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Speech by Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of his swearing in as president at the Chamber of Deputies in Tunis—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I swear by God Almighty to preserve the independence of the homeland and the integrity of its soil, to respect the Constitution and law of the country, and to completely safeguard the interests of the nation. [applause]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, esteemed deputies:

I have the pleasure of congratulating you on the people's confidence in you. I also have the pleasure of registering with all pride the convening of the first session of your chamber on this glorious day in the history of Tunisia, the day on which all Tunisians from all areas, groups, and generations came out to demand a Tunisian parliament. Many of them paid with their blood for this objective.

While we remember this glorious day and pay respects to the innocent souls of the martyrs, we remind ourselves of the responsibility of the trust passed to us and of the greatness of our responsibility to accomplish our people's desire for development, progress, and security.

Among the most important preconditions for the accomplishment of this desire is the cooperation of the legislative authority with the executive authority in laying down a legal context that expresses the needs of society and assists in meeting the challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, the people have elected you. Thus, by virtue of the Constitution you have become deputies for the entire people, participants in sharing the burdens of governance. To share the burden of governance is no easy matter, for trust is a responsibility. Today you are asked to listen to all citizens, irrespective of their memberships or dispositions. You are asked to experience their worries, to hear them with trustworthiness and sincerity, and to defend them.

At the same time, however, you are asked to inform them of the reality and nature of the country's problems from its various dimensions. You are also asked to inform them of what the chamber is doing about the resolution and treatment of these problems. By carrying out your responsibility you will become increasingly informed about everything concerning the country's general policy through the plans and budgets, through your participation in regional councils, and through your continuous dealing and strong cooperation with the executive authority in accordance with the Constitution's trust placed in you to monitor the government, especially through dialogue and discussion.

You are called upon to listen to the greatest number of opinions of citizens and forces, representing various classes and tendencies, so as to consolidate and deepen your views on the topics and projects pertaining to the new measures, to be truly and conprehenisvely aware of the the matters related to the country, and to be closely related to the aspirations of the people, emanating both from your conscience and that of the people.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have been elected on the basis of a social project that aims at achieving development and progress, as well as social prosperity. You should make sure you implement this project through the laws you will have to lay down and through the plans and measures the government will submit to you.

We all should realize that the reforms we have embarked on since 7 November have not been completed yet—we are still at the beginning—and that the current phase we are going through has its characteristics and necessities that should be taken into consideration, foremost of which is the striving for consolidation of the foundations of democratic dialogue and the guaranteeing of the new march we have chosen.

In this connection, I have already stressed our determination to support the Chamber of Deputies and strengthen its position to provide it with all the appropriate circumstances and enable it to perform its national role with regard to control and monitoring.

We believe that this particular period is extremely important. The country is facing a number of challenges, at the forefront of which is the provision of employment opportunities and the utilities of national life for a number of citizens, among them issues related to education, culture, and health. There is no other way to solve these problems but through the provision of the necessary means. However, the resources of the country are limited and the exaggerated reliance on the outside world harms the independence and security of the country, as it can have unfair conditions.

Therefore, the only solution we have before us is serious and honest work. Our country has no power or resource other than serious work. Everybody should clearly understand that all we have left is hard work, which is the only path toward success and the provision of wealth. The country cannot always bear the burdens it has borne up to now because it must rely on its own resources and because the results of its actions are related to the efforts of its sons working in the administration and in institutions.

What is sad is that for many years we have been negligent toward our country and ourselves when, for reasons that cannot be discussed here, we refused to firmly tackle issues, multiply our effor,ts and intensify our actions.

On the one hand, negligence reigned. On the other, exaggerated consumption outweighed our income. We ignored the fundamentals and aspired to appearances, which led, on more than one occasion, to a number of social upheavals, which we would not like to see reccur.

If the state was, indeed, implicated in this because of the policies it then followed, today, now that sovereignty has returned to the people, we want all Tunisians to be in charge of their own destiny and to realize the scope of their individual and collective responsibilities for the present and for the future.

We want them to know, frankly and clearly, what they should know. Our reward will be in proportion to our work and to the efforts we make. The state will offer assistance and help only to the modest and needy sections of society.

We are faced with serious cases that will bear waiting no longer, such as the Subsidies Fund, which must be corrected gradually to return it to its original role and scale; the foreign debt, the servicing of which consumes national efforts; some public sector institutions that have become a burden on the national community; and the private sector, too, where some have not played their full role.

Determination and vigilance require that we be aware of reality. Everyone must understand that the policies of pleasing and appeasement cannot benefit the country. For this reason, we will take energetic measures, which are unavoidable. We are counting on the understanding of citizens—men and women—and on their spirit of nationalism and sacrifice to face up to these challenges and to build a society in which equal opportunities are available and solidarity is general.

We also are counting on the political and social organizations and their effective role in this domain, for we believe that a civic, dynamic, efficient, and democratic society is the right framework for general development activity. Your great role is to realize these objectives through your understanding of their importance and perspectives, your understanding of them and your [word indistinct].

To consolidate the national reconciliation we have been carrying out since 7 November, we soon will submit to your honorable chamber a draft law concerning a general

amnesty for those against whom sentences were pronounced because of their opinions and leanings, irrespective of the judicial bodies that served these sentences. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, I once again reiterate my congratulations tor you for the trust the people have placed in you. I want to sincerely thank the ladies and gentlemen, members of the outgoing parliament, for their contribution to entrenching the change. Peace be upon you, together with the blessing of God. [applause]

LE MONDE on Ben Ali's 'Landslide Victory'

PM0604140889 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Rise of Islamic Movement in Tunisia"]

[Text] Mr Ben Ali won two victories in the presidential and parliamentary elections on Sunday 2 April. As the only candidate, he received a plebiscite as head of state, and the Constitutional Democratic Rally [RCD], which supports his action, won all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

Is this not too good to be true? It is likely that Ben Ali, who wants a consensus, would personally have preferred a few dissenting voices to be heard in the National Assembly. But the RCD, successor to former President Bourguiba's Destourian Socialist Party, forged ahead and widened the gap between it and the other parties in the race, especially since the majority voting system gave a bonus to the winner.

This landslide victory is bound to embarrass the head of state, because it is likely to give a strange picture of a Tunisian democracy with too unanimous a facade and to place parties which had some right to participate in the country's political life on the sidelines. As soon as the election result was known, Ben Ali took care to emphasize the fact that he wanted "to involve all sides" in his action.

The small parties were wiped out. Even Mr Mestiri's Democratic Socialist Movement, which was the main opposition party in President Bourguiba's day, did not find favor with the voters, who may have failed to see how it differed from the RCD because they were co-signatories of the "national pact."

The fact remains that the Islamic movement achieved a good score, because it won more than 13 percent of the votes cast, and in Tunis and its suburbs it won a much higher percentage. The fact that the future Renaissance Party presented its candidates under the "independent" label, because it is not yet a legal organization, did not deceive anybody.

The Islamic movement's leaders fought an active campaign throughout the country, taking a practical interest in the social and economic problems of the constituencies in which it had candidates, without refraining from expressing their beliefs. The government party was frequently on the defensive against these skillful orators who found a response in their audience.

Indeed, the Islamic movement's whole strategy is to say reasonable things to reassure the regime and not frighten the population which fears radicalism.

For instance, during the campaign, they avoided explicitly demanding the revision of the code governing the individual's status, which is the most favorable such code for women in the Maghreb.

Certainly nobody doubts that they have designs on government. But, for the time being, they are primarily trying to reach a compromise with Ben Ali rather than going it alone.

Paper Warns of 'Consequences' of Israeli Attack
JN0904092589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH issued here today warns the Zionist authorities against the consequences of carrying out the threats they have recently voiced against Iraq.

In an article published today, the newspaper says that the Zionist entity must realize the dimensions of these threats and the abominable consequences entailed if they are implemented. It affirms that the Iraq of 1989 is different from the Iraq of 1981 when the Zionists perpetrated their crime by attacking the Iraqi Tammuz nuclear reactor, which was devoted to peaceful purposes.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Iraq is currently in possession of "a giant strategic deterrent force" and has the right to use its force in the legitimate defense of its land, security, interests, and vital and industrial installations if they were to come under threat or danger.

AL-THAWRAH recalls Iraq's stand vis-a-vis the international law on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons treaty and indicates that Iraq is a signatory to this treaty and also to the agreement banning the use of chemical weapons. The paper adds that Iraq is also a member of the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] which inspects its nuclear installations, which are built for peaceful purposes.

The paper goes on to say: In stark contrast to this, the Zionist entity, which actually possesses nuclear weapons and adopts a policy based on attacking nuclear installations or threatening to attack these installations, does not permit the IAEA to inspect its nuclear installations. Nay, this entity seeks by all means to develop these installations and use them as means for threats, pressure, and aggression.

The newspaper voices regret that the international news media has been imposing a news blackout on the Zionist entity's policy which runs counter to the international laws, norms, and human rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says that the Zionists, who have displayed arrogance in their going to extremes in the perpetration of corruption and terrorism, must learn from the lesson provided by the Iraqi victory over the Iranian aggression and think a thousand times before falling prey to the devil of rancor and aggression. The era of encroachment and aggression has become a thing of the past while the era of freedom and pride has returned to throw its light over Iraq and the Arab land.

Soviets Cable Saddam on Treaty Anniversary
JN0804120089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

["Text" of cable to President Saddam Husayn from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers on the 17th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Iraq and the USSR; date not given]

[Text] Comrade Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and president of the Republic of Iraq.

On the 17th anniversary of the signing the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the Republic of Iraq, we send to you as well as to the Iraqi people our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

This treaty, which has become a shining landmark in Soviet-Iraqi relations throughout the past years, contributes—with great success—to the continuous development of these relations on the basis of equality, mutual respect, and common interest.

The USSR will further strengthen the ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation in the various fields with Iraq in the interest of the two countries' peoples as well as to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Near and Middle East and to entrench the new positive trends in relations between our countries and peoples.

[Signed] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.
The USSR Council of Ministers.

Cooperation Pact Signed With Chinese Youth Group
JN0904145189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—The National Union of Iraqi Students and Youths and the All-China Youth Federation have agreed to exchange views and expertise in student and youth affairs. Under the cooperation charter for the years 1989-91 signed yesterday, the two sides also agreed to coordinate the positions of the two unions in international and regional circles and conferences and to exchange visits by delegations to promote relations between students and youths in both countries.

Shamir Discusses Proposals for Elections
TA0704193189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Washington correspondent Nisim Mish'al on 7 April in Washington D.C.—videorecorded]

[Text] [Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, after his meeting with you, President Bush said: He is not as inflexible as I was led to believe. Were you soft, or did you display a conciliatory mood during your conversation with the President?

[Shamir] I believe I was true to myself, neither inflexible nor soft. I told them on one occasion: I am a believer and I adhere faithfully to principles, although I simultaneously seek ways for solutions.

[Mish'al] Did what you offered as a way out, namely elections in the territories, captivate the President so much?

[Shamir] I believe that they regard it as a way to achieve the goal, which is their goal as well: peace, the solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict. This has been bothering them, it worries them, and they are preoccupied with this issue.

[Mish'al] I would like to ask you about your proposal. Is it realistic or practical? Can it be implemented?

[Shamir] Look, if we implement it and we have partners to make it come true, it will definitely prove realistic and feasible. I furthermore believe that it serves the interests of both sides. It greatly satisfies the Palestinian Arabs' aspirations, and at the same time it neither harms Israel's security nor contravenes its principles.

[Mish'al] You said that this depends on whether we have partners for this. Let me ask you whether you believe elections in the territories could be held without the PLO's consent, given the current prevailing mood in the territories.

[Shamir] I think it is imperative. I believe that the PLO is not interested in peace, that it does not want peace. Therefore, any effort that would be made together with that organization would be futile and would fail to attain the goal. As a result, we must find those numerous Palestinians—I am convinced they are many—who yearn for some way out of the difficult predicament in which they find themselves.

[Mish'al] Will they go ahead with the elections idea without the PLO's blessing?

[Shamir] I believe so.

[Mish'al] Will all the Palestinian residents of the territories be able to participate in these elections?

[Shamir] According to our view, clearly every Palestinian who is a resident of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be permitted to participate in them.

[Mish'al] Does that include Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine activists as well?

[Shamir] Look, we must work out all the details. What I presented in the United States was primarily principles, the broad picture. We must now add the specifics to this general picture. This we will have to do in the immediate future.

[Mish'al] Can you tell us when that timetable will be consolidated?

[Shamir] I cannot say anything before we have actually started the work.

[Mish'al] When will that be?

[Shamir] I think we should start within the next few days. We want this and our friends here also want it.

[Mish'al] Are you bringing back to Israel the promise of an imminent end to the intifadah [uprising]?

[Shamir] What I am bringing back with me is a promise that there is a way that can be begun, and along whose paths it is possible to proceed in a bid to resolve the conflict—which we all want.

[Mish'al] Is the termination of the intifadah a precondition for the elections?

[Shamir] It is self-evident. Obviously, when we declare elections, once that process begins, it will be impossible to conduct it in an atmosphere and with the accompaniment of violence, riots, and attacks.

[Mish'al] In other words, the precondition for this is definitely an end to the intifadah?

[Shamir] I would not talk about conditions, but this is obvious.

[Mish'al] Sir, where do we still differ with the United States? Do you, for instance, accept the administration's formula of territories for peace?

[Shamir] They never asked me to accept that formula, as they are totally familiar with my views. I abide by the formula which says that we are committed to negotiations in which the future of the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be determined without preconditions and without our defining that solution at this point—except for one thing: It must be a solution that will be acceptable to both sides.

[Mish'al] But, after his meeting with President Mubarak, President Bush read a statement—which he repeated yesterday as well—that the United States regards the end of the occupation as a goal.

[Shamir] If we reach a mutually acceptable solution, it will be impossible to call it occupation. In any case, it will not be occupation. At the same time, I say that we do not have to have absolutely identical views here. On the contrary: Each side can come to these negotiations with its own ideas and proposals, provided that both parties realize the necessity and urgency of finding a solution that both can accept.

[Mish'al] Are you aware of the fact that the U.S. Administration will examine your proposals with the PLO within the framework of the U.S.-PLO dialogue?

[Shamir] No one said anything about it to me, we never exchanged a word about it. I did not discuss the PLO with them. At the same time, I never concealed my opinion that I positively object to the talks they decided to conduct with that organization.

[Mish'al] Sir, when you landed in Washington, you were described as having descended from the airplane with your fists clenched as a sign of determination. Now, after the talks, do you feel relieved?

[Shamir] I can forgo the clenched fists, but I am still firm in my opinions.

[Mish'al] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Jerusalem Arabs' Role Viewed

TA1004082389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Apr 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ran Dagoni, 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Shefi Gabay, and Yisra'el Rosenblatt]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not rule out the participation of Palestinians from Jerusalem and outside the territories in future elections in the territories. In an interview to MA'ARIV, the prime minister said that the participation of Arabs from these areas in elections, which might be held in the future would be "a subject for discussion."

In a conversation at his Chicago hotel this morning, Shamir said: "At the time when the negotiations were being conducted 10 years ago (on the Camp David accords), that was one of the subjects under discussion, but we did not reach a solution because the Egyptians stopped the negotiations." U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said on television last night that there is a problem with the Jerusalem Arabs, but did not say what the U.S. position is. Shamir added: "I did not ask what the U.S. position is and was not told."

"We have not yet begun to discuss the details of the proposals with the Americans," Shamir said. "We only spoke about the principles. We have not yet discussed the other articles of the initiative, such as a call to the Arab countries that are at a state of war with us."

In reply to another question, Shamir said that in his talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar he might raise the issue of the rehabilitation of the refugee camps. [passage omitted]

On Cooperation With U.S.

TA0804093889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in Blair House, Washington, on 7 April—recorded]

[Text] [Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, in a news conference this weekend, the U.S. President said he would act for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He also mentioned giving back territories in return for peace. How do you view this formula today?

[Shamir] Look, I am not interested in arguing with the U.S. President. The important thing is that we reached an agreement to cooperate in the spirit of the proposals we brought to the United States. If the U.S. Government cooperates with us in implementing these proposals, we have no problem with regard to what the U.S. President did or did not say.

[Schiffer] Sir, you instructed the Israeli Embassy here not to receive reports on the contacts the United States is holding with the PLO. If it becomes clear that the United States is maintaining these contacts in order, among other things, to guarantee the holding of elections in the territories, what will your reaction be?

[Shamir] I will persist in my way. We oppose this U.S. move and have not changed our attitude. Therefore, we shall continue to disregard the dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

[Schiffer] Observers who are following this visit claim that a process has begun here, in Washington, that you find yourself at the beginning of a process. How do you visualize the end of this process?

[Shamir] It is true that we find ourselves at the beginning of a process, but, let me stress, at the beginning of a positive process which should lead us to the settlement of the conflict between us and the Arab world. There is still a long distance to cover, but to reach the end of the road we should make a start, as we indeed have. I know that we will face numerous obstacles on the way, and that we will have to overcome them. Therefore, I am leaving Washington

encouraged by the U.S. attitude toward our initiative, and hope that it provides us with an additional basis for the confidence that we shall indeed reach our goal.

[Schiffer] Finally, do you believe you will find buyers among Palestinians in Israel for the proposals you brought to the United States?

[Shamir] I am sure that a great many of the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza welcome these proposals since they want a solution; they want to see an end to the suffering, to this futile violence. As a result, I am sure that many supporters for the proposals can be found. I am not sure at the moment, though, whether they will be able to give political expression to their support.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, thank you very much.

Denies Payments to Pollard

TA0904102689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 Apr 89 p 3

[Report from Washington by Yo'el Esteron]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir categorically denied reports published over the weekend according to which Israel is continuing to deposit $5,000 monthly into a bank account for Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel. In a meeting with U.S. Jewish congressmen on Friday, Shamir said: "This report is a gross lie. It is simply not true."

U.S. Delivering Plan to PLO

TA0804204689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will present the United States with blueprints for elections in the territories within a few weeks. Washington will then strive to persuade the PLO to agree to such elections, thus permitting the start of negotiations over interim accords in the territories. This was decided during Shamir's talks in Washington.

Over the weekend, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein briefed Ministers Peres and Rabin on the talks held in the United States. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren is here in the studio with the details:

In the course of his talks in Washington, Prime Minister Shamir refrained from detailing the basic principles for holding elections in the territories. He agreed with the U.S. leaders, however, that he would prepare a detailed blueprint for the elections. The plan must supply answers to the many questions posed by his hosts: What type of elections, exactly, will be held in the territories? Who will supervise them? Will the residents of East Jerusalem also participate in these elections? And so forth.

The prime minister promised to deliver answers to these questions in the coming weeks. The United States will then show these ideas to the PLO leadership in Tunisia, and although the subject was not even raised in the meetings with Shamir, an indirect dialogue between Israel and the PLO through U.S. mediation would, in practice, actually begin. If progress is made, Israeli and American work committees will be set up in the field to lay the groundwork for the elections. The condition will be the total cessation of violence throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

We learned this evening that senior U.S. officials reported over the weekend that the United States had decided in advance not to bring about a confrontation with Yitzhaq Shamir during his visit in order that he might seriously put his concept of elections to the test. If this idea manages to set a political process in motion, a process which will then lead to negotiations over a final settlement, then all is well. But if not, the United States will decide on a political initiative, one of whose components will be an international conference to discuss the future of the territories, this year.

At any rate, beginning next week a new kind of political activity will begin. At the center of this new political bustle will be the preparations for elections in the territories.

The chief Labor Party leaders told us this evening that they will support Yitzhaq Shamir's efforts to hold elections, even though it is clear to everyone that the negotiations hinge on the United States and Israel on one side, and the United States and the PLO on the other.

Peres on Shamir Visit

TA0904184489 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Eli Nisan, in Peres' office on 9 April—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] At the end of the official part of the prime minister's visit to the United States, do you think a complete and long-standing understanding has been reached with the U.S. Administration, or do you see this as a time-out given to the prime minister?

[Peres] Before replying to your question, let me take this opportunity to wish all the Muslim and Arab residents a respectable and honorable Ramadan festival, to all of them [Peres utters holiday wishes in Arabic]. I hope the fast is easy—I believe this is is the customary blessing on such occasions. Let us hope they pass this month in a reasonable and good way for the entire Muslim family.

As for the prime minister's visit, this is the beginning of a process, if indeed this is the beginning. Clearly, right now it is more a time-out to find out whether it is possible to start walking this path. The idea of elections has not yet been accepted by the Arab side, and it is

likewise still unclear what type of elections we actually have in mind: whether they are political or municipal elections; whether we will have outside observers or not; whether the elections will involve the Arabs of East Jerusalem; and other such things. Therefore, this is the beginning of the beginning, if one may say so, an examination of a possible process.

[Nisan] Mr Minister, is the question of holding elections in the territories for the purpose of electing a leadership to conduct negotiations with Israel realistic in view of the rejection of this idea by public figures in the territories?

[Peres] There is as yet no firm, authoritative response to the issue. It is first necessary to gauge the moods. Perhaps they will accept a certain mode of elections, perhaps not. The obvious thing, however, is that we must find a representation for the inhabitants of the territories with which to conduct negotiations.

[Nisan] Do you think the elected representation, which will be under the PLO's influence, could conduct negotiations?

[Peres] The people who will be elected will be suitable. This is what a democracy is all about. In a democracy, people are elected.

[Nisan] Mr Minister, in the aftermath of Shamir's U.S. visit, in whose court is the ball now? Who can push forward the peace process in our region?

[Peres] At this point the ball is in the air [laughing]. Once it lands, it will land in one of the courts. But seriously, it is in both courts—the Israeli and the Palestinian.

[Nisan] Do you think Shamir's proposal will at some stage lead to progress in negotiations?

[Peres] I repeat: It is too premature to judge because we have not yet fully decided upon the nature of the elections, and because the Arabs and the Palestinians have not yet provided their final, authoritative answer.

[Nisan] Mr Minister, before the prime minister left for the United States reports said that the Alignment was going to come out with its own political peace plan should the prime minister's mission fail. Is this idea still feasible?

[Peres] I believe we will all have to address the new situation. This applies to both parties, the Likud and the Alignment alike, because the Likud with its previous positions cannot advance the peace process, while if it decides to promote the peace process, it can hardly still be called the Likud. The Alignment will definitely have to address the new situation, which it will most likely do within the next few weeks.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 9 April reports that Peres said that "the political part of Shamir's visit to the United States has somewhat improved our standing." Peres says: "It was no surprise to me, in fact it was obvious from the start, that the Jordanians were going to reject the elections. But right now the Jordanians have removed themselves from any political process involving the territories. Hence, Jordan's rejection is only marginally important."]

Peres: U.S. 'Mediating Between Us,' PLO

TA1004101189 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Apr 89 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Yohanan Lahav]

[Text] "It is difficult to determine whether the prime minister won a time-out or achieved a turning point in the United States," Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said in reaction to the prime minister's U.S. visit.

"Now," he continued, "the United States is, in fact, mediating between us and the PLO, although this is not to our taste."

On the election idea raised by Shamir during his U.S. visit, Peres said: "We must decide whether it refers to political or municipal elections." He prefers political elections, first for an interim settlement, to be followed by a permanent settlement. The fact that the elected representatives will demand a state does not put him off despite his opposition to a Palestinian state, because in negotiations the Palestinians, and not only Israel, will have to make concessions and compromises. "Negotiations without compromises are just a waste of time."

In the final analysis, he has no illusions. "It is possible that the elected representatives will be more extremist than the PLO, the religious fanatics, and those who support the extremist organizations."

Arens: Direct, Indirect PLO Talks Rejected

TA1004123889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He told the committee that Israel will not be entering any negotiations whatsoever—whether direct or indirect—with the PLO. At the end of the session, Minister Arens told journalists he was not surprised by the PLO's opposition to elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza because the PLO is not a democratic organization. Our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan spoke to the foreign minister.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Will we be entering indirect negotiations with the PLO, via the United States, in the wake of the prime minister's talks in Washington?

[Arens] No, we will not be entering any negotiations whatsoever with the PLO, whether direct or indirect. We will do whatever we must without any such contacts, just as we conduct our relationship with the United States without any such indirect contacts.

[Golan] But the United States has said that it will pass the prime minister's ideas on to the PLO. Will we definitely not be ready to hear out the PLO's reaction to these proposals?

[Arens] I am the foreign minister of the State of Israel, and I have not been informed of any such thing.

[Golan] And what if you were informed of such a thing? What if the United States wanted to tell us what the PLO thinks about the prime minister's ideas?

[Arens] Look, the first lesson to novice diplomats—and I am one—is not to reply to hypothetical questions.

[Golan] What sort of elections would Israel be ready to accept in the territories?

[Arens] Please try to be patient. The prime minister will return from his trip and will present the issue to the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet. Deliberations will be held, and then you will get an answer to your question.

[Golan] Are you in favor of elections in the territories, Mr Arens?

[Arens] I support the notion of elections. I raised this possibility during my visit to the United States, and the prime minister has just presented it officially.

[Golan] What if these elections were to result in the election of people identified with or supporting the PLO?

[Arens] I suggest that you wait and see what happens. There is no need to answer such questions at the moment.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Arens, the PLO has already announced that it objects to elections in the territories before an Israeli army withdrawal from those areas.

[Arens] I do not see why you should be surprised. Does the PLO strike you as a democratic organization, a body that has ever held elections or one that believes in elections and in democracy? What is there to be surprised about?

We are a democratic country. At the moment, we are the only democratic country in the region, although I hope others will emerge. We are not in the habit of making elections contingent on the agreement of outside elements. That is unheard of!

[Golan] You know, Minister Peres argues that instead of getting to the point where the PLO got involved, it would have been better to accept the London agreement that he reached with King Husayn in April 1987. In hindsight, would it not have been better?

[Arens] The government's position is that a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement cannot be attained without Jordan. I think this is clear to all; it has always been and will always be obvious to all. Jordan is the country with which we share the longest border in the east, and it is a Palestinian country to all intents and purposes, except in name. Without it, it is hard to conceive of peace in the Middle East.

[Golan] What would you say with regard to the results of Prime Minister Shamir's talks in Washington: that Israel succeeded in gaining time or that we have truly taken a step forward in the direction of peace and an end to the uprising in the territories?

[Arens] I do not think we have been fighting for time. When the prime minister of the State of Israel travels to the United States, he goes there to hold talks and exchange views with friends in a bid to reach an agreement on the action to be taken at present.

[Golan] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Palestinians Reject Shamir Election Proposals

TA0904054689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Palestinians in the territories have rejected Prime Minister Shamir's call for elections. At the same time, they would consider elections under certain conditions. Shlomo Berger reports:

The main problem Palestinians in the territories have with Prime Minister Shamir's proposal for elections concerns the role of the PLO. The feeling is that the elections are aimed at avoiding talks with the PLO and creating an alternative leadership. The Palestinians believe that, by leaving the PLO out, Shamir wants to sow division and confusion between the Palestinians in the territories and those abroad. AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah puts it this way: We will never accept a process where the beginning is not with the PLO. Sari Nusaybah of Bi'r Zayt adds that, if the elections take place under occupation, they are a joke.

Still, the Palestinians have not closed the door altogether on elections, provided they are held under certain conditions. They say elections would be acceptable if coordinated with and endorsed by the PLO, and if they are part of an overall settlement. The final settlement would be discussed at an international peace conference aimed at achieving Palestinian independence. In other words, it must be clear from the outset that elections are the first step toward a Palestinian state, an idea that will be rejected outright by Israel.

Sinyurah and Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an fly today to Cairo, apparently to hold consultations on the latest diplomatic developments. Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni is also in the Egyptian capital.

West Bank Figures on Plan

JN0904132589 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Differing reactions to the results of the visit made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the United States and to the ideas that he proposed, particularly on holding elections in the territories, have continued to be voiced in the West Bank. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem interviewed three figures on this issue and also on the recent meetings between figures from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israeli figures:

[Begin recording] [Dr 'Isa Khatir, from Bethlehem] Shamir's statements were a positive step, as they expressed a readiness on the Israeli Government's part to make peace in the region and signaled the absence of a categorical rejection of the PLO. It was a positive step taken to tell our people that a solution might be envisaged for us in the near future.

[Ben-Menahem] For example, the elections idea proposed by Shamir and accepted by the United States. How do you view it?

[Khatir] Nobody who cherishes democratic values rejects the elections idea. However, this idea must obtain a green light from the PLO. Besides, there must be an international authority to supervise these elections, so that each person can express his opinion freely.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you think that the elections idea is a realistic one? Is there a possibility for holding these elections in the territories?

[Khatir] If the elections were to be a separate issue, they would not be practical. However, if the elections idea were a part of a comprehensive plan, of a peace process, it would be a good thing, provided that the PLO approves of the idea.

[Ben-Menahem] Would you, for example, run in these elections if... [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Khatir] By God, I would be pleased to take part in such elections if the PLO gives the citizens a green light to take part in them.

[Ben-Menahem] Dr 'Isa. You, along with several figures, took part this week in a meeting held with the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria. What are the issues that you raised at this meeting?

[Dr 'Isa] The issues discussed were general in nature. The political issues were not given prominence in the meeting. However, those present affirmed the legitimacy of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. In addition, we raised daily issues, such as the reopening of schools, the pursuit by tax officers of owners of commercial stores, and other daily topics. That is all. Nothing other than that was raised.

[Ben-Menahem] What about the elections issue, for example?

[Khatir] The elections issue was not raised at all at the meeting.

[Hanna Sinyurah, editor in chief of Jerusalem AL-FAJR] The principle of holding meetings to explain the Palestinian stands, to explain what transpired at the Palestine National Council is important, including the meetings held by Faysal al-Husayni and others, as well as the meetings sponsored by the newspaper AL-FAJR and the magazine NEW OUTLOOK in New York. Through these meetings, we seek to effect a real understanding of the Palestinian and Israeli positions.

[Ben-Menahem] Will you, for example, be ready to continue meetings with the Israelis in the future?

[Sinyurah] If there were to be no new risks, there would be a need for holding these meetings. However, this is to be decided after we study the outcome of Shamir's U.S. visit. After he returns here, there will be a new position—either to continue the meetings or to suspend them for another period.

[Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association] I am for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which seeks to approximate the views of the two parties and to draw up a common perspective for resolving the Middle East conflict. However, I do not support the holding of negotiations with Israeli officials or semiofficials, as I am not the party authorized to do that. The PLO is the party qualified to do that.

[Ben-Menahem] How do you view the meetings held between Palestinian figures in the territories and the Civil Administration?

[Abu 'Ayyash] They [The Civil Administration officials] contact these figures who cannot say yes or no.

[Khatir] These are good meetings that might ameliorate the feelings harbored by both parties toward one another and help each party to understand the positions of the other party. Besides, these meetings can resolve daily problems; that is if the Civil Administration means to resolve them.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you believe anything useful will come out of these meetings?

[Abu 'Ayyash] I believe they are mere chats and nothing will materialize from these meetings. These chats do not result in anything practical. There is a difference between an exchange of views and putting views into practice. [end recording]

Our correspondent states that a number of figures from the West Bank will leave for Cairo tomorrow to hold talks with Egyptian and Palestinian officials on advancing the peace process in light of the visits of both Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Washington.

Ex-Nabulus Mayor on 'Farce'

JN0804110689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] London, 8 Apr (WAKH)—Former Nabulus mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah has announced that the election plan presented by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington is an attempt to bypass the victories achieved by the Palestinian people through the brave intifadah [uprising]. In a statement to WAKH over the telephone, Al-Shak'ah said that the free and possible elections can take place after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces. Al-Shak'ah noted that the past experiments in the field of elections in the occupied territory proved to be a failure because the occupation forces encroach on the real representatives of the people.

Al-Shak'ah, who was permanently disabled when the occupation agents detonated an explosive charge under his vehicle many years ago because of his nationalist stands, affirmed that the farce of the elections presented by Shamir bears nothing new and that it is like trying to give life to a dead body.

Bassam al-Shak'ah stressed that the continuation of the Palestinian people's intifadah will make the Israeli rulers change their stands in the interest of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

The former Nabulus mayor said that the Shamir plan aims at dividing the Palestinian people into two parts. Meanwhile, he added, the situations on the ground of reality affirm that the people inside and outside the occupied territory are a whole that cannot be divided.

Navy Sinks 'Terrorist' Dinghy; All Aboard Killed

TA0904054489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] The Israel navy sank a terrorist vessel north of Rosh Haniqra last night, and all on board were killed. The Israeli ship was on a routine patrol in the area. UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] headquarters told our reporter that Israeli aircraft last night dropped flares along the Lebanese coast. The navy's Dabur ships are cruising off the refugee camps of Al-Rashidiyah and closing off the approaches to the port of Tyre.

Navy Commander on Incident

TA0904123489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mikha Ram said that the two terrorists killed last night in a rubber dinghy north of Rosh Haniqra planned to carry out an attack on Israeli territory. He said it was the first mission by a Dvora vessel, which became operational 1 month ago, and has shown what it can do.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the navy commander pointed out that the terrorists were in a dark rubber dinghy and that the personnel aboard the Israeli vessel fired as soon as they spotted it. It seems that two terrorists aboard the vessel were killed.

Adm Ram said that recently there has been an increase in attempted infiltrations into Israel and that there has also been a slight increase in infiltration attempts from the sea.

Egyptian Coast Guard Stops Boat in Gulf of Aqaba

TA0804144289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] An Egyptian Coast Guard patrol stopped an Israeli boat in the Gulf of Aqaba this afternoon. Four Elat residents were on board the boat: two men and two women. All four were taken to an Egyptian Coast Guard base on Coral Island for questioning.

Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports that an Israeli yacht that was in the vicinity reported that the Egyptian Coast Guard vessel sailed up to the Israeli craft and towed it to the base on Coral Island. Israeli liaison officers are checking into the matter.

Egyptians Release Boat

TA0804175189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The Egyptian Coast Guard has released the four Elat residents that were arrested this afternoon on a boat in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports that the four, two men and two women, are now on their way to the Elat marina where police are waiting to question them. Our correspondent points out that immediately after the four Israelis were released and commenced sailing toward Elat, they ignored a police order to dock at Tabah and complete the border crossing procedure, instead they continued straight to Elat.

After their interrogation is over it will be decided whether to prosecute them for disregarding the instructions of the police. The authorities will also verify whether they left Israel's territorial waters illegally before being stopped by the Egyptian Coast Guard.

Further Reaction to Sale of Bombers to Libya

TA0804061089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] A senior Israeli official has dismissed the Soviet Union's assurances that the bombers it is selling to Libya cannot reach Israel as laughable. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said in London yesterday that the supersonic Sukhoi-24 bombers have a range of only 300 miles. However, the United States said that even without refueling the planes can fly the 700 miles to Israel, and the Soviet Union is also supplying Libya with a tanker plane for in-flight refueling, giving the lie to Gerasimov's claim that Libya will have no refueling capacity at all.

The Israeli official said Israel has information that the Soviets struck the deal 6 months ago, not in 1986, as Gerasimov claimed.

Earlier, the Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Soviet decision was astonishing, in the light of Moscow's claim that it is trying to defuse areas of conflict around the world.

Families Inhabit Settlement East of Qalqilyah

TA1004115889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Apr 89 p 10

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Four families yesterday moved to Zofim, east of Qalqilyah, and established what Beni Katzover, the head of the Samaria Regional Council, called "a mini-beginning." The four families are to be followed by others today, and one of Zofim's promoters, Yehuda Leizerovich, told THE JERUSALEM POST he expected that 10 families would be living there within a month.

New Measures Implemented After Temple Riots

TA1004152589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev has instructed Police Commissioner David Kraus on the measures to be implemented by the police on the Temple Mount next Friday. Among other measures, the minister ordered that entry to the Temple Mount be denied to persons who may cause disturbances. Bar-Lev also told the police commissioner to restrict the entry of residents of the territories. Our correspondent Yaron Toren reports:

Following last Friday's incidents on the Temple Mount, Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev summoned all the relevant parties to his office: the police commissioner, the police commanders of the Southern District and the Jerusalem area, representatives of the Jerusalem City Council including Mayor Kollek, and members of the security forces including the Shin Bet.

The minister heard a report on last Friday's occurrences and on the police deployment for the coming weeks. Bar-Lev reviewed the police activities and said that any attempt at disturbances or law breaking must be met with an immediate response.

At the conclusion of the meeting Bar-Lev instructed the commissioner regarding the measures to be taken next Friday. These measures are: The entry of residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to the Temple Mount will be restricted. The entry of suspected troublemakers will be forbidden. Identity cards will be taken from those coming to pray and will be returned upon the conclusion of prayers.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 10 April adds that police and Border Police units stationed near the Temple Mount will also be increased.]

Police Commissioner Kraus will be on the Temple Mount to personally supervise the implementation of these instructions.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Janin Boy Hurt, Strike Staged

TA0804082589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] A 14-year-old boy was wounded in Janin this morning in a violent clash with soldiers. The boy was hospitalized in Israel.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a general strike is being staged in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza today to mark the beginning of the 17th month of the uprising.

The military authorities have imposed a curfew on numerous refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. Because of disturbances, a curfew was imposed this morning on a Tulkarm neighborhood, and the army forced the residents out of their homes to make them erase slogans from walls and remove PLO flags hoisted during the night.

2 Killed 7-8 Apr

TA0904101489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] Twenty two Palestinians were shot and wounded in the territories yesterday, the first part of a 48-hour strike marking the end of 16 months of the uprising. Palestinian sources said two people died hours after inhaling excess tear-gas, but there was no confirmation from official sources. In Bethlehem, a tourist was injured in the face by a stone.

The weekend curfew imposed on seven of eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip—and for several hours on the town of Bayt Hanun—failed to prevent clashes between Palestinians and troops.

Two Palestinians were shot and wounded yesterday and two others on Friday in the Khan Yunus refugee camp. Another three were wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp, in Rafah and in the Daraj neighbourhood of Gaza, according to Palestinian sources. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman put the number at four.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 9 April adds: "A firebomb was thrown yesterday at an Israeli army patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The firebomb ignited on the road and no one was hurt. Army forces began a search of the area."]

A leaflet distributed by the Hamas Islamic resistance movement called on residents to continue teaching in mosques and at home, and to fight against drug-dealers. It called for strikes yesterday, today and on Tuesday to commemorate the deportation a year ago of four Gazans.

The Islamic Jihad, for the first time in months, yesterday published a leaflet calling on Druse Border Policemen to abandon "the people who oppress our people," because "they are doomed to be defeated," and to return to their own people, "who will stay here forever. The time has come that you listen to your conscience and honour your Arabhood."

In Nabulus Hamas supporters using loudspeakers urged the town's residents to wage a Jihad, according to Palestinian sources.

In the West Bank, a 14-year-old boy from Janin was shot and seriously wounded in the head. He was admitted to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. A demonstration was held following rumours that the boy had died, but an IDF spokeswoman reported in the early evening that he was still alive.

Palestinian sources said eight other Palestinians were lightly wounded in weekend clashes in Janin.

Yesterday in Hebron, Qasim al-Natshah, 60, reportedly died after being overcome by tear-gas used by troops in clashes on Friday. The IDF did not have information on the incident.

Also in Hebron, settlers on Friday set alight 10 Arab cars and two shops. In clashes afterwards, four Palestinians were shot and wounded, according to the IDF. Palestinians put the number at five.

Six other Palestinians were reportedly shot in clashes in Bayt Immar, Qabatiyah, Bethlehem and the Ayda and Al-'Azza refugee camp. Two Palestinians were reportedly shot by troops during clashes on Friday in the 'Askar refugee camp near Hebron. A tourist was lightly wounded while riding in a taxi in Bethlehem. He was treated in the local police station.

The family of Yusuf Khalil Zidan, 52, from the Christian Quarter in Jerusalem's Old City, told reporters that Zidan died yesterday morning after he was overcome by tear gas used by police on Friday to quell the Temple Mount demonstration.

Soldier Sentenced to 56 Days

TA0904054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Reserve Sergeant Rami Hason was sentenced to 56 days confinement in the wake of his refusal to serve in the territories. This is the longest sentence ever given a soldier for refusal to serve in the territories since the Palestinian uprising began in December of 1987.

Hason last week ended a 28-day sentence for refusing to serve in the territories. The Yesh Gvul [There Is a Limit] Movement says it will launch a public campaign for Hason.

1 Killed, 3 Hurt in Jabalyah

TA0904132889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] A 13-year-old boy was killed and three youths were wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp this afternoon by Israeli army gunfire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there was a large gathering inside the camp and several firebombs were tossed at soldiers. The soldiers were forced to shoot plastic bullets at the firebomb throwers. As a result of the shots, the boy was killed and his friends were injured.

A general strike is in progress throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to mark the beginning of the 17th month of the uprising.

3 'Terrorists' Sentenced

TA0904143989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] The Lod Military Court today handed down prison terms of 8 to 11 years to three terrorists convicted of placing a bomb near Minister Ari'el Sharon's house in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yisra'el Peretz reports that the three terrorists, residents of East Jerusalem, pleaded guilty.

Hebron Resident Killed

TA0904145789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] An Arab resident of Hebron was killed by Israeli army gunfire after attempting to attack a soldier with a pitchfork. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports that another Arab was injured in the incident. A curfew was imposed on the center of Hebron.

4 More Hurt; Youths Sentenced

TA0904185489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Two more wounded from the incident in Jabalyah were brought to a Gaza hospital. A 13-year-old boy was killed and three youths were wounded in the incident.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps are under curfew. In the village of 'Awarta, near Nabulus, two residents were wounded. A curfew was imposed on the township of Qabatiyah in the wake of stone-throwing incidents in the past 2 days.

The Gaza Military Court today handed down prison terms and heavy fines to youths convicted of throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers and attempting to force merchants to close their stores.

Suhayl Madahin, 17, was given an 18-month prison term and fined 2,000 shekels for throwing rocks at soldiers and inciting children to do the same. Two other youths were sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and fined 500 shekels because they set fire to the stores of merchants whom they suspected of violating strikes. Two youths, aged 16 and 17, were convicted of throwing bricks at soldiers. They were sentenced to 1 year in prison and fined 800 shekels.

Firebomb, Stones Thrown at Cars

TA0904211889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] This evening a firebomb was thrown at an Egged company bus in Ramallah. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that army forces arrived at the scene and searched the area. They found another firebomb ready for use.

This evening a rock was thrown at a van traveling on the coastal road toward Netanya from a field near Moshav Udim. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Ehud Rabinowitz reports that the driver of the van noticed that the stone-thrower escaped into the field. The police launched searches in the area.

Gaza Strip Curfews Lifted

TA1004053689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Early this morning, the Israeli army lifted the curfew on all locations in the Gaza Strip, except for Jabalyah and the adjacent refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Gaza Strip residents left for work in Israel as usual this morning, following a 2-day general strike.

Information Minister Condemns Shamir Proposal

JN0804204089 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The minister of information, Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, said today that the statements made so far by the Israeli prime minister are far from the requirements of true peace and ignore the positive peace orientations of the PLO and the Arab states, which met appreciation and understanding from the European countries and from the United States Administration itself.

Dr al-Khasawinah, answering a question from REUTER news agency, said Jordan agrees with the PLO and Egypt that holding elections in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and stopping the Palestinian uprising will not lead to real peace.

He said that the Palestinian people's option for peace is clear and unanimous. The cause of peace in the region, Dr al-Khasawinah added, cannot be served by Israeli prime minister's persistent rejection of the principle of the international conference, and by refusal to recognize the Arab identity of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and by his insistence on accusing the PLO of being a terrorist organization.

The minister went on to say that Jordan is following up the position of United States President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, and appreciates their serious concern with the cause of peace in the Middle East, and attaches great hopes to the forthcoming visit of his majesty the king to Washington and his talks with President Bush, especially as the discussions take place between two friendly statesmen.

Al-Qasim: Proposal 'Evasion'

JN0904124889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned that Jordan's King Husayn will visit Washington on 17 April, and is expected to begin official talks with U.S. officials 2 days after his arrival in the United States. King Husayn's visit to Washington, the first since 1985, comes following U.S. President George Bush's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

During his talks in the White House, Shamir had proposed holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to pave the way for the initiation of negotiations with Israel on a temporary settlement in the occupied territories.

Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Marwan al-Qasim, has described this proposal as an Israeli attempt at procrastination and an evasion from the truth. In a statement to our radio, Al-Qasim affirmed that the PLO is the one that represents Palestinian rights, emphasizing that the elections concept is an Israeli tactic to paralyze the peace process, whose importance and feasibility was agreed on by the world at large. Al-Qasim said that the Arab-Israeli conflict is first and foremost an Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Al-Qasim said that there will be no one other than the PLO to represent the Palestinian side, and it is the only party that is qualified and empowered for this representation.

King's Trip 'Litmus Paper' for U.S. Stand

JN0904112089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Moment of Truth"]

[Text] The moment of truth about the outcome of President George Bush's encounters with leaders of the countries most directly affected by the Arab-Israeli conflict would only come when His Majesty King Husayn also gets his turn with the American president and his senior aides in the White House and Washington on April 19.

The picture emerging thus far in the wake of President Bush's meetings with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is blurry at this stage of the game. The Arab World would have to suspend final judgment about what has really transpired in Washington lately until His Majesty King Husayn concludes his talks there and reports to the Arab Nation on the results of his meetings with the American officials. It was not fortuitous, one still hopes, when President George Bush presented his blueprint for peace in the Middle East, at the end of his talks with President Mubarak, in such a way to begin with a call for an end to Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and end with the convening of a properly structured international conference; with granting the Palestinians their full political rights serving as a central point. As long as these propositions remain the cardinal features of American policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, then the Arab side would have a good cause for optimism. Any deviation from these fundamental principles, or any attempt to dilute their potency by accepting diversionary recipes, should be rejected outright.

King Husayn's forthcoming visit to Washington would therefore serve as the litmus paper which will gauge fully and completely the American scene as far as the Middle East is concerned. Such a trip would also write the third chapter about Washington's story on the Middle East and would probably address, inter alia, the question of how to reconcile the apparent American acceptance of the Israeli offer to conduct elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the three cardinal principles duly formulated and accepted by President Bush, namely, the

end of Israeli occupation of Arab territories, acceptance of the political rights of the Palestinians and the convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

At the end the question remains, is the concept of elections going to be simply a decoy for procrastinating and derailing these very salient features about ultimate peace between the two sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and for frustrating the PLO's role in the projected international conference.

'Bizarre' U.S. Behavior on Mideast Issue Noted

JN0804091089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Apr 89 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The U.S. Behavior"]

[Text] The outcome of the Bush-Shamir talks clearly indicates that the U.S. President has approved the Israeli noes—no to negotiations with the PLO, no to an international conference, and no to a Palestinian state. He also approved the idea of a phased solution to which Shamir is committed. This idea is the core of the Palestinian section of the Camp David Accords.

It is to be noted that this approval has been accompanied by bizarre U.S. behavior. Although the U.S. Administration embarked on a dialogue with the PLO and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker called on Israel to negotiate with the PLO a few days ago, the U.S. Administration finds no embarrassment in approving the Israeli stand rejecting negotiations with the PLO. This was through Bush's approval of Shamir's proposal calling for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These elections are aimed to find Palestinian representatives to replace the PLO.

While, during his talks with President Mubarak, Bush tried to depict the U.S. stand as flexible on an international conference when he announced that he approves it, he, at the same time, was eager to stress what he termed the "appropriate time."

At the same time, while the U.S. President tried to depict his administration's stand on the Palestine question as a developed one when he announced that the problem has a political dimension, he was eager to reject the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and reiterated this rejection during his talks with Shamir.

The bizarre U.S. behavior, which presents verbal tranquillizers to the Arabs, adopts the stand of the Israeli aggressors. This behavior casts heavy shadows on U.S. credibility in terms of its rejection of the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Arab land. The same behavior indicates now more than ever before that Washington still insists on excluding others in formulating and administering a settlement in the region, this excludes Europe, the Soviet Union, and all the UN Security Council permanent member states. It is apparent that the U.S. behavior is also aimed at helping Israel liquidate the intifadah [uprising] and terminate the escalating Palestinian revolution in the occupied territories in return for a phased settlement as stipulated by the Camp David accords.

Hence, it can be said that the outcome of the Bush-Shamir talks does not help activate the peace process in the region and poses the question of whether it was the green light that encouraged the Israeli aggressors to commit the crimes they committed yesterday in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Mosque following the Friday prayers.

The U.S. behavior toward the Palestine question is not satisfactory. It is necessary to expedite the convocation of the ordinary Arab summit, which has been delayed for a long time, in order to crystallize a unified Arab action capable of confronting all possibilities and to enable the Arabs to push forward the peace process and prevent any side from formulating and administering an unfair settlement in the region.

Jordan, Egypt, PLO To Hold Summit in Amman

JN1004103589 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, Apr 10, INA—King Husayn of Jordan starts on Apr. 17 a visit to the United States for talks with U.S. President George Bush on Arab and international questions.

Informed sources told INA correspondent here today that the Jordanian monarch and President Bush would focus on boosting peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy and through an international peaceful conference. Their talks would also deal with Lebanon, Arab Gulf, and U.S.-Jordanian relations.

Prior to the talks, a tripartite summit between Jordan, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization might be held in Amman, the sources said.

Leaders Criticize French Policy on Lebanon

Birri 'Surprised' at Stand

NC0704183789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Minister and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri held a news conference today in which he discussed the new developments and their local, regional, and international dimensions. He emphasized that Maronite policy and the Maronite military are two faces of the same privileges that run counter to justice, equality, and equal opportunity.

Birri discussed the massacres committed by General Michel 'Awn in shelling peaceful inhabitants in Beirut, Beirut's southern suburb, and the mountain area. He said that by doing this 'Awn has applied the scorched earth policy in pursuit of his lust for power and privilege, even if this brings an end to Lebanon, because, in 'Awn's view, the maintenance of privilege is more important than Lebanon's survival.

Minister Birri noted that the party in the eastern area is obstructing the work of the Arab good offices committee, after that party failed to employ the committee's work in its favor.

On the French stand, Minister Birri said: We are so surprised that we fail to believe that French President Mitterrand has adopted such a stand. I would have liked President Mitterrand to apply for Lebanese citizenship. But had he applied, he would not have been able to become president, because he is not a Maronite. We also would have liked French nationals who believe in the principles of the French Revolution, which has laid the foundations of human rights in Europe and many other areas in the world, to apply for Lebanese citizenship but not to send us Zionists. Basically, the Zionists are occupying our land in southern Lebanon and in the western al-Biqa' and are divesting the Lebanese of their citizenship, as has happened in seven villages.

We very respectfully ask President Mitterrand: Do the principles of the French Revolution lead you to a sectarian instinct, or do the principles of international socialism lead you to such an instinct? The Lebanese, especially the Shi'ites, have migrated from southern Lebanon and the border strip since 1978. They are still migrating. Whole towns have been wiped off the map. Other villages remain, but only one tenth of their population has stayed in them. If France is really interested in all of the Lebanese, why did we not see the enthusiasm it is now showing at this time and why did the crusade not appear then? Our villages in the south are being destroyed daily. Why do we not see French hospital ships and other ships loaded with foodstuffs? We are not opposed to such aid. Why have we not seen such aid at the ports of Tyre or Al-Naqurah?

We regret to refer Mitterrand, the president who we had the honor of meeting and many of whose qualities we respected, to history and to tell him: We, as Lebanese and Arabs, have not forgotten that the Balfour Declaration was the gateway to the Palestinian people's plight and that the pledge of General Gouraud marked the start of replacing the French mandate with the Maronite mandate in Lebanon. This link between the two mandates is the instinct that has motivated them [the French].

Birri on French Aid Rejection

NC1004145589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Minister and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri declared today that it has been decided to reject the medical and food supplies being sent by France. However, he expressed readiness to receive the two French ships at one of our legitimate ports so that these supplies may be dispatched intact and unopened to our kinfolk in the eastern area.

Minister Birri said: We are experiencing the atmosphere of the twenties and thirties. Should they revert to the France of the Mandate, we would revert to the atmosphere of unity with Syria.

Meanwhile, Minister Birri has received telephone calls from Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan. He also telephoned U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy.

Junblatt on 'Regrettable' Role

NC0804131089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1008 GMT 8 Apr 89

["Proceedings" of news conference held by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, in Damascus on 8 April—recorded]

[Text] [Junblatt] The purpose of this news conference today is to draw attention to, or rather to warn against, external factors that might further complicate the Lebanese crisis and threaten the security of the whole region. I here emphasize the new and old French roles. It is regrettable that France has blatantly stood alongside a clique of Christians in Lebanon. It stood alongside the military regime against the aspirations of all Christians in Lebanon and against the aspirations of the Lebanese nationalists. It stood against political reform and against the required and cherished settlement. It stands behind Michel 'Awn under the slogan that the Christians are in danger. This is wrong, because more than 50 to 60 percent of the Christians live outside the eastern area.

On the eve of celebrating its bicentennial anniversary of the revolution, democracy, and freedom, France stands alongside the military regime in Lebanon against the aspirations of the Lebanese people. Have we returned to the time of the Crusades? Have we returned to the

French mandate? Have we returned to the visit of Gouraud [French general during mandate] to the grave of Saladin? He said: We have returned after 800 years. Have we returned to the small Lebanon, the governorate? Have we returned to the plan of partitioning Syria and Lebanon the way it was proposed in the twenties? These are many big questions that we pose to the French regime and to Mitterrand before it is too late. The conflict in Lebanon is internal. What is required is political reform. What is required is to topple the military cliques. What is required is to consolidate Lebanon's relationship with Syria, no more or less. Naturally, it is also required to expel the Israeli army from the South. For us to return to the multinational force and, God forbid, to French political and, subsequently, military inrterference in Lebanon, would constitute a very grave matter that will complicate things and not solve any problems in Lebanon.

This is what we wanted to emphasize today. We also wanted to draw Arab attention to this matter. We also wanted to draw the attention of France as well so that it will not get involved in a political and military adventure in Lebanon.

They [the French] have decided to send ships carrying medicines to both areas. However, we have heard in the news that these ships are military ones. Will these ships come to lift the siege imposed on Michel 'Awn? The mere fact that Michel 'Awn has declared that he has asked or might ask military aid from France means that the French weapons have already arrived. French experts and a French Army might follow. I hope we will not reach this stage, which reminds us of the French mandate, General Gouraud, or the multinational force that came 5 or 6 years ago. This is what we wanted to draw attention to today from Damascus, because foreign French interference would constitute a direct danger to national security, the Syrian security. In this regard, we are in political and military solidarity, with all means available to us, with Syria.

[Reporter] They say that the Syrian forces in Lebanon are fighting alongside the nationalist parties. Would you comment on this?

[Junblatt] As far as I know, the Syrian forces in Lebanon did not participate in the fighting. We are defending ourselves as nationalist parties. The Syrian forces entered Lebanon with a known task and with clear Arab authorization after the Cairo and Riyadh summit conferences in 1976 and 1977 to establish security in Lebanon. As you may recall, the Syrian forces were asked to enter West Beirut in the wake of the bloody events and chaos that prevailed in Beirut last year. They did establish security and stability there. The Syrian forces did not take part in the ongoing fighting in Lebanon. It is an internal Lebanese struggle over the issues of reforms and Arabism.

[Reporter—in English] Mr Junblatt. Do you believe this style of war, the exchange of shelling, would be enough to put a radical end to the Lebanese sufferings, whether militarily or politically? If not, what would be the alternative, and if yes, please tell us technically how? [Junblatt—in English] The only alternative is to achieve the political solution by establishing the radical reform in Lebanon, having a new political system, and of course getting out the military out of the scene. We cannot accept, we canot tolerate Michel 'Awn and his clique to govern Lebanon. This is the only alternative for not having shelling or not having war. We do not want war, we want peace, but a new political regime.

[Reporter—in English] It is very well known that the Syrian forces did enter Lebanon upon the request of all Lebanese and not to take one side against the other to enforce security, and this was at one time reflected when the Christians in general, and the Phalangists in particular were grateful to Syria. Could you please tell us what caused this sudden change which made General 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces attack Syria?

[Junblatt—in English] The Christians change their mind next year, after the entrance of the Syrian forces in 1978. [sentence as heard] We remember at that time when the Christians of, not the Christians, part of the ruling class, went to Israel and decided to attack the Syrian forces in Juniyah, in Al-Dawrah, and in Al-Ashrafiyah. And from that time on Bashir al-Jumayyil decided to liberate Lebanon from the Syrians. Again we have the same tendency. Now 'Awn is backed by the French and also by another Arab country called Iraq, which is bad because it is disastrous to see Iraq, who claims to be an Arab country, supporting the Israeli tendency in Lebanon against the Syrians. It is bad, paradoxical, and stupid.

[Reporter—in English] It seems that Gen 'Awn's main goal is to make the Lebanese struggle an international issue. Depending on the Syrian support to the national parties, could you please tell us what would your reaction be, especially from the French clear step taken recently?

[Junblatt—in English] I have already said, I warn and I hope that the French position will not lead us to a new military intervention, a French military intervention in Lebanon like in 1982, or a new French mandate in Lebanon like 1920, when General Gouraud invaded Lebanon and Syria and decided to establish French rule on our soil. I hope not, because it will lead to unpredictable consequences.

[Reporter—in English] What is it that the French are doing that you see as such an intervention?

[Junblatt—in English] The recent French declarations that bluntly and stupid support for the military clique in Lebanon against the wishes of all the Christians of Lebanon, because after all half of the Christians are not living inside Al-Ashrafiyah or Juniyah [sentence as heard]. They are living outside. At the same time, the

French have to know that they are endangering all the Christians of the Middle East. We have around 12, I think 15 million Christians living outside Lebanon. The French support to Michel 'Awn, to the Phalangists, the extremist Christian tendency, will endanger those living outside. It is a very risky game.

[Reporter—in English] What kind of support is he [word indistinct]?

[Junblatt, in English] Well, Michel 'Awn said that he is going to ask for military help. I think he got already military help from the French, arms and weapons. I hope he will not ask for French troops, which will be disastrous for Lebanon and for the whole Middle East.

[Reporter—in English] Are there Iraqi troops or advisors already in the east [Beirut]?

[Junblatt—in English] We have been told that there are Iraqi advisers, but they have lots, of course, Iraqi [weapons]. All the weapons now are Iraqi, shells that are destroying West Beirut and the mountain are coming from Iraq.

[Reporter] How would you assess the Soviet stand on resolving the Lebanese crisis?

[Junblatt] The Soviet stand naturally seeks a cease-fire. We also want a cease-fire. But we also want a political solution, political reforms, and consolidation of the close and central relations between Lebanon and Syria and the consecration of Arabism. We are for a cease-fire, and so is the Soviet Union. This is normal.

[Reporter—in English] Mr Junblatt, General 'Awn admitted for the first time that the Muslims should be given a greater say in Lebanon's politics, and he called upon the Lebanese in West Beirut to come to negotiations, to come for dialogue. What would you comment on this?

[Junblatt—in English] What a strange approach to call the Muslims of West Beirut or of Lebanon to negotiate when he is throwing on the Muslims bombs from 'Alayh to Ra's al-Nab' [on] homes and other places of Beirut. It is a very strange approach to dialogue. General 'Awn bluntly and clearly said that there is no internal problem in Lebanon, which is wrong, and he clearly and bluntly said he wants to liberate Lebanon from the Syrians. The fact we cannot accept. Later on, one day when we will achieve national reconciliation, when we will have a government of national reconciliation we might ask the Syrians to withdraw, after the withdrawal of the Israelis. Here the Fes sumit is clear, the Fes summit statement is very clear.

[Question] Mr Walid, could you repeat what you just said in Arabic?

[Junblatt] I am surprised that 'Awn wants dialogue at a time when he acts to destroy the mountain, the suburb, and Beirut. It is indeed a strange method of political dialogue. 'Awn does not want dialogue. He said frankly that there is no internal conflict, although there is a major internal conflict over reforms and Arabism. He wants to liberate Lebanon from Syria. Our answer to him is that there is a great internal conflict and that we want political reforms, a patriotic Arab army, participation, an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the implementation of the UN resolutions, and a national unity government emanating from a national Lebanese consensus. If it is necessary to discuss the issue of the presence of the Syrian forces, we can discuss this with Syria, but at a later date.

[Reporter—in English] Mr. Junblatt, is it not the impression that you and Mr Birri had requested the support of Syria? If that is the case, is it not counterbalance then for the Christians to go and seek support outside?

[Junblatt—in English] We asked support when we found that the road to political negotiations is blocked or was blocked by the military coup d'etat of General 'Awn—the so-called General 'Awn. After all, there is a coup d'etat that happened on the 23d of September 1988. And there is also a book written by an officer in the Lebanese Army called "The Road to Power." Bluntly, the military of Lebanon are saying: We want power—power for us, power for the ruling class, power for the Maronites. So, we have to seek support in Syria, outside, anywhere. We have to defend ourselves.

[Reporter—in English] So how did you have Syrian support since'83?

[Junblatt—in English] Yes, but the Syrians also from'83 when they saw that there are chances of achieving compromises in Lebanon stopped support. And it is hard to find compromises. You remember the famous tripartite agreement that was signed here in Damascus with Elie Hubayqah. It failed, but the Syrians are seeking for solution in Lebanon.

[Reporter—in English] Did the Syrians support the Christians at that time?

[Junblatt—in English] Well, I think the Christians of Lebanon, not the Christians, because we don't have to mix between the true Christians and the ruling class of the Christians—the Phalangists and others. I think Syria offered a great help to the Christians of Lebanon in general and to this tendency in particular. But the Christians of Lebanon don't want [not further specified]. They will use anybody for their particular interests. Syria, then Israel, then they brought the Americans and the French, now the Iraqis. Who is left, I don't know. Maybe the Chinese or the Soviets, I don't know.

[Reporter—in English] You mean the Christians under the leadership of 'Awn and, at the same time, [words indistinct] where the other Christians under the other leadership, like Hubayqayh and Franjiyah, stand from this situation?

[Junblatt—in English] Well, I think we are in the same trench with Hubayqah and other Christians. As for Mr Franjiyah, it seems, well, he is silent. A very strange silence. He hasn't even denounced the claim of 'Awn to liberate Lebanon from the Syrians.

[Reporter—in English] It is bad?

[Junblatt—in English] Well, it is bad. It is well-known fact that Franjiyah in 1978, after all, denounced the coexistence among Lebanese. At the meeting of Sayyidat of Al-Bir, he said: There are two civilizations in Lebanon, but we Muslims are not of their civilizations. It is 1978. It is strange but this is Franjiyah's position.

[Reporter] You are warning France against interfering in Lebanon. If such interference occurs, what would the nationalist forces' position be?

[Junblatt] The position will not be confined to the nationalist forces. It will be a position covering all the Lebanese and Arab nationalist forces because it would mean a return to direct colonialism. It would mean protecting some of the Christians despite the desire of all Christians in the East and of putting them in danger. The Christians in the East are not only part of the Maronites who live in Lebanon. No. There are Christians in Syria, Al-Biqa', Egypt, and Iraq. The French interference, which would return us to the small Lebanon—the governorate of Lebanon—against the will of the Lebanese nationalists and Muslims, would constitute a danger to all. It would be playing with fire.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Junblatt] We have not heard a hostile, if the term applies, voice from the Vatican. We hope that the hostile statements attributed to France supporting 'Awn are untrue. Naturally, if we support 'Awn, then we support the military regime. France supports the military regime, and it supports the reactionary policy of the church in Lebanon. It is a policy that is against reforms and for the privileges.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Junblatt—in English] Mr Saddam Husayn, President Saddam Husayn, advised by Mr Tariq 'Aziz, his foreign minister, thinks that he can settle down his dispute with Damascus in Lebanon. It is an advice to Mr Husayn, Saddam Husayn, that this is not the right place to settle down his dispute. Maybe to settle down the dispute with Damascus would be to sit on the same table and discuss the whole political issues of the Middle East. Because pouring arms and weapons in Lebanon with the Maronites, part of the Maronites, will change the whole balance of situation in Lebanon, will be at the disadvantage of the unity of Lebanon. And, if Lebanon is divided, the whole Middle East will be divided—even Iraq will be divided.

If he thinks that he is saved from division, internal divisions, he is wrong. Even Iraq will be divided. But Mr Saddam Husayn is badly advised by a certain guy called Tariq 'Aziz, who claims to be an Arab. He is not an Arab, [he is an] extremist and hates us, hates Syria, and hates Lebanese patriotic forces to the end.

[Reporter—in English] It has been noticed that during the last 14 years of civil war, the Lebanese Army was neutralized to a certain extent. But at one time, the Army used to help mainly your forces, and in special times Amal Movement and Mr Hubayqah's forces. Could you please tell us why General 'Awn is making it a war between two states and why the national parties till this moment did not show clearly the whole world about the facts?

[Junblatt—in English] Never the Lebanese Army was neutralized. Always the Lebanese Army was to side with the establishment, with the ruling Maronite party against everybody, against the Syrians. But now the Lebanese Army is getting stronger. At that time it was slightly weak. Now it is quite an important military force backed by the Israelis and now the French and the Iraqis. In the balance of power, it is not bad. It is quite a force. And, they have claims. They are claiming to overthrow the politicians and to come to power. They have said that.

The book of General Fu'ad 'Awn ["The Road to Power"] is very clear. So, the military army was never neutral. In the history of the Lebanese Army, anyhow, from 1960 [former President General Fu'ad] Shihab took power, up till now, never the Lebanese Army was neutral.

[Reporter—in English] You explained the motivation for General 'Awn in terms of his long-range plan, but realistically speaking, a lot of people outside wonder how did this little general in charge of a small army can take on the Syrian armed forces, and isn't this crazy and futile and what chances does he have of winning, and is not he bringing a lot of suffering down on his own people? Or, do you see some other plan or motivation behind what he is trying to do? What is he trying to do? Where is he hope this will end?

[Junblatt—in English] Up till now, he has achieved [his goal] in bringing disaster to West Beirut, to East Beirut, to the mountain, to villages. We have now, I don't know, maybe a million Lebanese refugees outside the two Beiruts. This is what he has achieved.

Can he compromise? He can't. Are we willing to compromise with him? No. This guy should step down.

On what he is counting. Of course, he is counting on the support of Iraq and now, as I told you, on the French. This French support is complicating the Lebanese settlement, the Lebanese issue. We hope that this French support won't be a true support, that it will just be limited to humanitarian support. We hope, but I have doubts. Knowing the French, the French mentality, the French historical background in Lebanon. I think the French just see Lebanon as a Christian enclave. It is dangerous.

[Reporter] Does the guarded calm now prevailing in Lebanon mean that a political dialogue will start?

[Junblatt] We, as nationalist forces, are ready to begin a political dialogue with the Christian democratic forces, but I do not believe that we can have a dialogue with those who caused this catastrophe for civilians and Lebanon, specifically speaking, the military clique and those who are allied with it. This is impossible, and this clique must be overthrown.

[Indistinct questions from more than one reporter]

[Junblatt] It is impossible to reach a common denominator with 'Awn. He wants to skip the internal conflict. He wants a military rule and to liberate Lebanon from Syria, which is impossible.

[Reporter] He has said that he will start the political dialogue.

[Junblatt] Is this the best way to begin a political dialogue? He shelled civilians on Black Tuesday, when some 60 or 70 people were killed in West Beirut. Is it a useful political dialogue to destroy 'Alayh, Baysur, 'Aytat and other areas in the mountain? Is it a useful political dialogue to bring in huge quantities of Iraqi arms? Even today, he asked for French arms. Is this dialogue?

[Reporter] Who started the bombardment, did you or did they?

[Junblatt] No, never. I was in West Beirut when the bombardment began. Before the bombardment began, the Voice of Lebanon reported that schools in East Beirut had been closed. This means that there was a premedidated plan, and the situation erupted at 0800, as I remember. Defenseless children were going to school when shells suddenly began to rain down. That was the massacre that led to the escalation of the situation.

[Reporter] Thus, there can be no solution?

[Junblatt] I am not telling you there is a solution. I do not rule out a solution with this frenzied man [mahwus] [sentence as heard]. This frenzied man receives support from the Gulf. The 6-man Arab committee or some of its members thought it was possible to reach a political deal with him when they met with him in Tunis. This is what brought us to the current crisis in addition to the huge material and political support he receives from Iraq.

[Reporter—in English] Mr Junblatt, is it not strange that France is interfering now clearly and openly against the nationalist forces and Syria, whereas they did not interfere when the Israeli invasion took place? [words indistinct]

[Junblatt—in English] The French, as I told you, have their old mentality in the Middle East. It's back to, if you want, back to Saladin. They are take time, to take revenge [as heard] of the Muslim victory over the Crusaders, 800 years ago. The French want Lebanon as their own political, cultural dominion, but now it is much more dangerous. It seems that they are back to small Lebanon. They want to help the Maronites against all the wishes of the Lebanese and the rest of the Christians. It means also they would plan, they might have in their background [to] divide Lebanon and Syria. Remember, when the French were in Syria in 1920, they had a plan to divide Syria. But the Syrian revolution at that time, led by all the patriots of Syria, was against this. And there was a military struggle froma 1925 to 1927.

[Reporter—in English] Do you have a question to France: Why they did not interfere when the Israelis invaded Lebanon?

[Junblatt—in English] They denounced, I think, the Israeli intervention. Then they sent the so-called multinational troops. Then they went out. The French are one-sided in Lebanon.

Al-Huss 'Shocked' by Stand

NC0904112889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that he was shocked by the partial French stand, which was expressed by French envoy Jean-Francois Deniau.

Asked about this stand, Dr al-Huss said: We have been shocked by France's recent feverish and biased policy toward Lebanon. Even more shocking was the French envoy's biased stand and attacks on us. However, this stand was not the same which was expressed during our recent meeting, at which we sensed his understanding of our position.

On Deniau's proposal to bring him together with General 'Awn, Prime Minister al-Huss said that he rejected this proposal for the following reasons:

1. It would not be safe to open a dialogue between two fronts, each of which claims to be the legitimate government. This dialogue will open the door to coexistence between two authorities in one country, thus driving the last nail into the coffin of Lebanon's unity. As is known, our government is the legitimate constitutional government;

2. It would be quite impossible to reach an agreement with 'Awn in view of his intransigence and stubborness, which characterize his stands, including those which have dragged the country to a calamitous situation. 'Awn raises the banner of war, while we raise the banner of peace and unity. How could we, therefore, agree? If we meet but later declare that we failed to agree, the gravest consequences on the general situation would be the result; and

3. I believe that Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has paved the way for a dialogue and exchanges between the two areas by declaring his intention to form a parliamentary committee for national accord, which will assist the Arab committee in its task.

I also believe that the door of dialogue is open through the Arab committee and the proposed parliamentary committee.

Asked about the dimensions of the French campaign to present the Lebanese issue to the UN Security Council, Prime Minister al-Huss noted: I believe that internationalizing the crisis by presenting it to the Security Council will not be in the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese, nor even in the interest of those advocating the issue. Regardless of any other consideration and regardless of the possible issuance of any resolution through the pressure of certain big powers, the outcome of any resolution will be negative even from the standpoint of the advocates of internationalization.

Prime Minister al-Huss went on to say: If we assume that a resolution has been adopted by the Security Council calling on the Syrian forces to withdraw from Lebanon, a resolution aspired to by the advocates of internationalization, it would mean that we have linked the Syrian withdrawal with the end of the Israeli occupation. There is an 11-year-old resolution, Resolution 425, which calls for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. It has not yet been implemented. Is it not natural that the resolution which was adopted in 1978 be implemented before the resolution which they are seeking to adopt in 1989?

Prime Minister al-Huss asked: Does this not mean that the Syrian withdrawal is being linked to the withdrawal of the last Israeli from Lebanon? Is that what the advocates of internationalization seek?

Al-Huss Sends Mitterrand Message

NC1004120189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] As part of the current efforts to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis and to explain what is really happening in Lebanon, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has sent a message to French President Francois Mitterrand in which he explained the real situation in Lebanon, beginning with the 14 March massacre and General Michel 'Awn's subsequent claim that what is happening is a liberation war.

Prime Minister al-Huss also referred to the violence which has taken place in Lebanon for the past 14 years and the dramatic events of the Israeli invasions in 1978 and 1982.

Prime Minister al-Huss affirmed that the basic element of the crisis is the demand of the majority of Lebanese, both Christians and Muslims, for concrete constitutional reforms to enable Lebanon to emerge from its crisis. He affirmed that the time has come to change the course of these things and to put them on the right course.

Prime Minister al-Huss referred to the two small ports in al-Jiyah and Khaldah, which Gen 'Awn has used as a pretext to block the solution process. He drew attention to 'Awn's coexistence with those who are competing with him in the areas under his control and to the unjustified naval blockade which he imposed and which caused the present flare-up.

Prime Minister al-Huss affirmed that the Lebanese crisis is a political one and that its solution can only be achieved by political means. This is what the Arab committee is working for, he said. He hoped that the recent military escalation would not frustrate the intensive contacts being conducted by the Arab committee.

Islamic Jihad Views French Ships as 'Military'

NC0804184789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1815 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY in Beirut has disclosed that it has received a call from a person claiming to speak on behalf of the Islamic Jihad organization. The caller announced that his organization will treat the two French ships [on their way to Lebanon with humanitarian aid] as military vessels and that the organization is awaiting their arrival to carry out a Jihad decision that is commensurate with the aggression.

Further on Report

NC0904072189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] A spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Organization has announced that the organization will deal with the two French ships, which are due to arrive in Beirut, as if they are military vessels. The spokesman added that the organization is awaiting the arrival of the ships to carry out the suitable Jihad decision that will repel the new French aggression.

Al-Khatib Issues Warning

NC1004143789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of Major General Sami al-Khatib's Army Command in Beirut on 10 April]

[Text] Two French ships, one a warship with a hospital on board and the other a civilian ship carrying fuel oil for the al-Duq thermal power station, are sailing toward

Lebanese territorial waters. The Army Command in Beirut has learned that the French authorities are insisting that the two ships dock at the Juniyah and al-Duq ports, ignoring the naval and air blockade imposed by General 'Awn's forces on the Lebanese coast, particularly in the area extending from al-Ma'amiltayn in the North to al-Jiyah in the South. This area has become unsafe and a daily target of shellfire.

The Army Command draws attention to the great dangers which could result from the insistence on letting the two ships enter the Juniyah and al-Duq ports. The least of these dangers would be to push the relatively quiet security situation toward escalation and aggravation.

The Army Command warns against this insistence and holds those making it responsible for the consequences. The Army Command proposes that the two ships dock at Tripoli port. This command will ensure that the wounded from all areas reach the floating hospital, that the aid gets to those for whom it is intended, wherever they may be, and that the fuel oil is transported to the al-Qud thermal power station in the same way it is now done.

The Army Command hopes that the French authorities will respond positively to its proposal to safeguard the two ships and their crews.

French, Soviets To Watch Ships

NC1004124089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] French intelligence sources have disclosed that the two French oil tankers and the floating hospital which are expected in Juniyah on Thursday will be given French naval protection by the destroyer Dupleix and the frigate D'Estienne d'Orves.

The sources added that the unloading of 30,000 tons of fuel oil at the al-Duq thermal powerplant will be watched over by Soviet vessels in international waters.

French Envoy Decries U.S. for Supporting Syria

NC0904185289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] French envoy Jean-Francois Deniau has stated that it was the decision by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to close down illegal ports used for drug trafficking that ignited the fire in Lebanon 3 weeks ago.

In an interview in the JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE weekly today, Deniau criticized the United States for siding with the Syrian regime. He said: The Americans know that Syria and the militia rake in huge profits from the poppy fields in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley, where terrorist training camps are situated. He added: The United States condemns drugs and terrorism worldwide, but the Americans make an exception for the Syrians in Lebanon.

Deniau attributed all this to Kissinger's foolish and morally dangerous theory, which is based on using Lebanon in the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel in such a way as to ensure that Syria adopts a neutral stand on the Palestinian question. Deniau said that the ambiguous U.S. policy in the Middle East had done nothing to solve the 14-year-old war in Lebanon, which is the result of Damascus' dream of creating a greater Syria, including Lebanon. He added: Saudi Arabia finances the Syrians. The Americans could, if they so wish, persuade the Saudis to adopt a more conservative and just attitude toward Syria.

The French envoy said that Gen 'Awn speaks for all the Lebanon, not just for the Christians, whereas Prime Minister Salim al-Huss submits to Syrian influence and has no room for maneuver.

Deniau accused Syrian Colonel 'Ali Hammud of ordering the shelling of the French Embassy during his mission in Beirut to prevent him from meeting with Gen 'Awn.

French Ambassador Reacts

NC1004144789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Following a meeting today with Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, French Ambassador Paul Blanc was asked: What is the French Government's view in the wake of Deniau's statement? He said: The French position can only be expressed by the French Government, and specifically the French Foreign Ministry. I think that Foreign Minister Dumas' positions were clear. France hopes that there will be a cease-fire on a firm basis and a return to the process which existed before for holding presidential elections. Foreign Minister Dumas has repeated this position several times.

Ambassador Blanc was asked: France has been leading a campaign for the internationalization of the Lebanese issue, while at the same time it has declared that it supports the Arab committee. How do you explain this contradiction?

He replied: France is not leading a campaign for internationalization. France was influenced by the sufferings of the people in Lebanon. Therefore, it was compelled to move in all directions, including the internal direction with the Lebanese parties, the direction of the Arab six-member committee, the direction of the United Nations, and in all international directions. This is what France has done. It supports the Arab committee. When one finds that a house is on fire, one calls all firemen.

He was asked: Major General Al-Khatib has announced the Army's readiness to allow the two French ships to dock in Tripoli port, ensure the distribution of aid to all Lebanese areas, and transport the wounded from all areas. What is your comment on this announcement?

Ambassador Blanc replied: I have no information about this statement. French aid is destined for all the Lebanese. We have no eastern or western sectors. I think that our aid will reach everyone.

After the meeting, Ambassador Sutaytiyah said: I received Ambassador Blanc at his request. For 90 minutes we discussed the latest developments in Lebanon, and particularly the recent positions of the French Government and French Envoy Deniau on the Lebanese problem. On behalf of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss I told Ambassador Blanc that the French position is killing moderation in Lebanon. It is also liable to help one party against the other. This is what France's concentration on the foreign aspect of the crisis and its disregard for the internal aspect mean. We maintain that the internal aspect is the problem. This is in addition to the Israeli occupation; we call on the EC states to exert efforts to end it.

On behalf of Prime Minister Al-Huss, I also gave him a strongly worded protest against Deniau's position. This position and the statements made by the French envoy did not reflect what Deniau said during his meeting with Prime Minister Al-Huss. What he said to Prime Minister Al-Huss completely contradicts what he said in France. His statements were tantamount to expressing support for one side following the escalation in the eastern areas.

He added: I also informed Ambassador Blanc that Prime Minister al-Huss's government is currently moving toward rejecting the aid being offered by France. In this case, France must give all the aid to the other party with which it sympathizes. The French ambassador expressed complete understanding for Prime Minister al-Huss's complaint about the French envoy's statements. Ambassador Blanc promised me that he would report immediately to his government, and he expects a quick answer from his government to restore balance to the situation.

'Awn on Possible Front Against Israel

NC1004103689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that the United States is inconsistent in its relations with Lebanon. In an interview with the Spanish paper EL DIARIO, Gen 'Awn said that the Americans demand militias be dismantled. Yet, in the meantime, they ask me to let the militias' ports operate.

Gen 'Awn said that the superpowers are strong; however, their hearts are too small to let them help their friends.

Gen 'Awn asserted that he intends to open a front with the Israelis should they refuse to leave Lebanon. He said: We will have to see.

'Awn concluded that he is ready to receive French military assistance.

Claims Syrian Reinforcement

JN0804185089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Apr 89

[George Bashir dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese Government, received approximately 20 Lebanese deputies in his office today [as heard]. He said that Syria—and this is divulged for the first time today—has brought in military reinforcements, including two warships in the northern area and armored units in the Al-Biqa' area.

'Awn stressed the seriousness of the continuing Syrian interference in Lebanese affairs and the absence of independent national decisionmaking, fomenting hatred among the Lebanese people and supporting the armed terrorist movements on Lebanese territory at the expense of the reputation of Lebanon and the Lebanese people. He said that these terrorist movements carry out their operations against friendly and sisterly Arab and foreign countries and that Syria and Iran benefit from these terrorist operations, particularly kidnapping foreigners and releasing them later.

'Awn reiterated his proposals concerning a reconciliation dialogue among Lebanese politicians to realize reform, justice, and development, adding that he is serious in his proposals. He said this dialogue should be conducted among the Lebanese themselves without any Syrian hegemony or presence and without an Israeli presence. He accused Syria of confiscating the national decisionmaking, especially in areas where the Syrian Armed Forces are present.

'Awn called for establishing strong relations between Lebanon and Syria on a basis to be defined by the governments of both countries. He said Syria's role in Lebanon has been an Arab role for 10 years with the aim of realizing Lebanese unity, supporting legitimacy, protecting the Palestinians, and confronting Israel.

'Awn asked: What have the Lebanese and Arabs realized of the principles stipulated in the Riyadh and Cairo Arab summits save disaster, tragedy, destruction, poverty, and the displacement of Lebanese—both Christians and Muslims? What have they realized for the Palestinians and Arabs?

Fadlallah: Initiatives To Give U.S. Time

NC1004113789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that all the initiatives being launched in the Lebanese arena, beginning with Patriarch Sfayr's initiative, followed by the Arab one, and concluding with the French internationalization game, are merely ways to gain time so that the United States can complete forming its administration and drawing up its plan for the region. He noted that all remarks about reforms, elections, crossings and ports, and about security are merely for local political consumption because the people must be preoccupied by the small game and thus distracted from the big game.

His eminence has pointed out that it is not a matter of a liberation war. He noted that every quarter and group has clearly defined roles, so that everybody stays along the drawn lines, because the main player shifts the lines so that minor players can play by them. Therefore, he

said, we have to search for America in the Arab and Muslim worlds because we will find its fingerprints on every war and on all sedition.

His eminence warned that America wants to enter Lebanon through a thousand windows after the mujahidin drove it out the door.

His eminence concluded that we have nothing to lose and that we have to defend our existence, freedom, and Islam and to discover our unity in all locations. Scholar Ibrahim al-Amin, for his part, believes that the new foreign invasion which we may soon witness will be a new Crusade launched by France, the malicious imperialist which supports the crusaders against Muslims. His eminence said our battle is not one between Muslims and Christians, but it is instead between Muslims and imperialist tools in Lebanon.

His eminence challenges America, France, and Israel to return to Lebanon, saying that this will be the happiest moment for Muslims because it will put them into direct confrontation with those enemies.

Scholar al-Amin concluded that Michel 'Awn's battle is not one to liberate Lebanon from Syria but instead one to introduce the imperialist powers to this country so that 'Awn can play the same role Bashir al-Jumayyil played in 1979.

[In a related report at 0900 GMT on 10 April, Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic reports that "Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin, one of Hizballah's principal leaders, has accused France of wanting to invade Lebanon under the cover of humanitarian aid and the protection of minorities. In a speech he delivered in Bi'r al-'Abd in Beirut's southern suburb, he said: We are facing imperialist, tyrannical, and oppressive France. We are facing a Crusade. We thank France for expressing its intentions clearly because the entire world can understand that our battle is not against the Christians but against the tools of imperialism."]

Birri Calls for Security Committee Meeting

NC0704190089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Minister and Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri has called on the leaders in the eastern area and on General Michel 'Awn to hold a meeting of the security committee in its headquarters at the racetrack at 1200 tomorrow after the Al-Yarzah Army vacates this headquarters. He emphasized his commitment to the Arab committee's declaration.

At a news conference he held today, Minister Birri stated that the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the nationalist Army are prepared to cease fire and lift the blockades. He also underlined rejection of the naval blockade. He said that the problem lies in the sectarian system.

Minister Birri said that if Syria accepts any solution with the regime the nationalist forces will reject this solution. He added that Syria's presence in Lebanon is linked with unconditional Israeli withdrawal. He noted that a political plan and other subjects were discussed with the Arab committee because the solution [to the Lebanese problem] is not a security solution but a political one. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Plane Fires on Turkish Vessel, Kills 1

NC1004120589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1155 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Maritime sources in Sidon have reported that this morning a Lebanese Air Force plane intercepted the Turkish vessel (Mamuli) while it was sailing toward Sidon Port. The aircraft fired on the vessel, killing one of its crew and causing heavy damage to the vessel, which was then compelled to sail toward Famagusta, Cyprus.

Syrians Said Using Airport at Al-Qulay'at

NC1004144289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Western diplomatic sources have revealed a decision by the Syrian occupation forces to use al-Qulay'at Airport in the north for military purposes, as the Syrians claim that the airport belongs to the Syrian state.

The sources have said that military helicopters have been transporting ammunition and military equipment for 1 week to the al-Qulay'at Airport and to positions held by the Syrian special units so that its [word indistinct] may be deployed along the lines of the northern front.

The same sources have noticed that the Syrian military helicopters intensified their activity in the region during last week, transporting military equipment to the Syrian-occupied areas in al-Batrun and al-Kurah. The equipment included surface-to-surface missiles with a 40-km range, in addition to 240-mm, 180-mm, and 130-mm mortars.

4 Syrian Gunboats Join Naval Force in Tripoli

NC1004154789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] According to security reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian forces have brought four fast small gunboats to Tripoli. The gunboats have joined the Syrian naval force that has been stationed off the Tripoli coast for a week.

Shellfire in W. Beirut, South Suburb, Mountain

NC1004144589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] A security source has reported that areas in West Beirut, the southern suburb, and the mountain are coming under shellfire. Some fires have broken out, and a number of casualties have occurred among the citizens.

The source said that the areas of 'Ayn al-Muraysah, al-Ramlah al-Bayda', and al-Rawshah are coming under indiscriminate shelling and that a fire has broken out in 'Ayn al-Muraysah area and is being extinguished by fire-fighting teams.

Al-Shar' Receives Shevardnadze Representative

JN0804161189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—At noon today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Gennaddiy Tarasov, special representative for Mideast affairs of USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Attending the meeting were Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal, the head of Eastern Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the USSR ambassador in Damascus. They talked about relations between Syria and the friendly USSR as well as international and regional developments, with an accent on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Paper Examines 'Hostile Approach' by U.S.

PM0704111689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 89 pp 1-2

[Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish and Muhammad Sadiq report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's Information from Washington and Paris: U.S. State Department Officials Behind Campaign Against Damascus"]

[Excerpts] Paris, Washington—According to secret reports that several European capitals have received over the past few days, the hostile atmosphere against Syria within the new U.S. Administration is escalating. Informed sources in Washington confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the existence of such reports and the existence of trends seeking to make Syria a constant target for U.S. criticisms.

According to one of the reports received in European capitals, the tide of hostility is based on two axes. The report, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has read, defines the two axes as follows:

The axis comprising new U.S. State Department officials, since there are five key officials in sensitive positions who are very hostile to Damascus, namely, Lawrence Eagleburger, deputy secretary of state; Reginald Bartholomew, assistant secretary of state; John Kelly, who replaced Richard Murphy as assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs; Dennis Ross, head of the forecast center and the State Department's thinking and analyzing brains; and Aaron Miller, a senior official at the forecast center.

As for the second axis, it is based on three ideological trends within the U.S. Administration: the trend that has historically supported Israel and which attacks Syria to justify the rejectionist Israeli policy;

The geopolitical trend, which urges the United States to exploit the Soviet weakness in and retreat from the world's sensitive areas and to fill the vacuum quickly before the Soviet Union can recover its strength and past ambitions. This trend strongly criticizes the idea of observing detente with the Soviets and of not embarrassing Gorbachev until he completes restructuring;

The tendency calling for a new U.S. Arab policy.

All these trends share hostility toward the Syrian regime and the demand that it be confronted with strength and for an end to the previous policy of giving consideration to Damascus, regardless of the severity of the media campaign between the two sides.

The report adds that those reports of Ahmad Jibril's involvement in the recent Pan Am aircraft operation were leaked primarily to tighten the grip on the Syrian regime. [passage omitted]

The information obtained from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources in Washington supports some of the points made in the report. The information says that there are indeed elements within the U.S. Administration traditionally hostile to Syria. They support the existence of a certain intellectual trend that regards Syria as an obstacle on a number of points to U.S. plans and its dealings with the Middle East region.

The same information attributes the hostile approach to Syria within the U.S. Administration to Syria's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. In that trend's view, Syria maintains a "hard-line stance."

'Awn Rejection of Arab Initiative Criticized

JN0904153789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The recent Arab ministerial committee's appeal for a cease-fire in Lebanon once and for all unmasked the face of the agent coterie in Lebanon—the clique that has for too long prevaricated and lied about its adherence to an Arab-sponsored solution to the Lebanese crisis. General 'Awn thus attempts to portray the Arab initiative as being at odds with the Syrian Arab role that, in the face of all internal and external conspiracies, has advanced the cause of Lebanon's integrity and spared the sisterly state the Zionist-prepared fate of disintegration and dismemberment.

Syria has come out strongly for a cease-fire, as have Lebanon's nationalist forces and parties with which the committee conferred in Damascus. These want a halt to the bloodbath and the game of death and ruin that was initiated by a reckless military officer who arrogated power, forced himself on a faction of the Lebanese people, and is seeking to impose a confessional dictatorship on more than 80 percent of the country's population.

Without mincing words this time, 'Awn declared his rejection of the Arab committee's appeal and went so far as to impugn its goals. He knows that a cease-fire and return of calm, peace, and stability will inevitably result in the collapse of his suicidal project, which poses a threat to the whole country. Such a development is not to the liking of his foreign manipulaters. It was not out of

fondness for 'Awn that thes
money on 'Awn; it was ine have lavished weapons and
which are detrimental to furtherance of their plans,
integrity, and independenc Lebanon's Arab affiliation,
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'Awn against Lebanon andnodel of those committed by
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This course of action is
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Lebanon's nationalist force
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'Irresponsible' French Stand on Lebanon Noted

JN0904080289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today and under the headline "Irresponsible Statements Reflecting a Biased Stand," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The colonialist mentality that has been rejected by peoples and rendered useless by nations, is today attempting to infiltrate some French news media. Certain French politicians are propagating this mentality at a time when France should be taking a responsible and constructive stand that would be in keeping with the aspirations of the majority of the Lebanese to achieve the desired reconciliation and solution.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The strange thing about these irresponsible statements is that they are sometimes based on distorting facts and at other times neglecting them with the aim of portraying a subjective picture of the components of the Lebanese crisis, thus overlooking many facts that have been recognized by all those who deal with the Lebanese issue, not to mention the Lebanese parties. There is no doubt that such irresponsible behavior goes against the general tendency to expand Syrian-French relations. Consequently, this behavior neither serves France nor its interests in the region.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: It is natural for us to voice regret over this unjust stand that fails to take realities into account, and which goes against the most basic requirements dictated by the French role, as it has negative effects on the overall Lebanese situation at a time when events have proved the importance of reconciliation and dialogue as the only means to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

While regretting these discordant voices, we wish to see the political quarters have sound and quiet thinking and deal with international and regional political problems with a sense of responsibility and seriousness and not to allow themselves to be dragged to a stand that would neither serve Lebanon nor France. We also hope to see that these discordant voices fail to affect the realistic orientation of the French policy vis-a-vis the region.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, which has always been at the forefront of those who rush to save Lebanon, will not be deterred by the campaigns of distortion, deception, and pressures, regardless of the sources and types of these campaigns. Syria today is not the Syria of the twenties, and everybody is well aware of this.

Afghanistan

Kabul Calls Bush Appointment 'Provocative'

BK0704170789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 7 (AFP)—The Afghan Government said on Friday that U.S. President George Bush's decision to appoint a diplomatic envoy to the mujahidin resistance alliance was "provocative."

"This decision is not only intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, it is a provocative action," Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said.

"We regard this action of the U.S. Administration as an effort to pull the extremists and their so-called interim government out of a stalemate situation," he added.

The Bush administration on Thursday appointed Peter Tomsen, a charge at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, as an envoy to the rebels, who are based in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan.

However, reports from Washington said the posting did not mean formal recognition of the mujahidin interim government elected by an assembly, or shura, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan late February. The government has been recognised by Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. [passage omitted]

The reports from Washington said that Mr. Bush would not consider a formal recognition of the mujahidin government until general elections had been held in Afghanistan and only when the resistance held more substantial areas of the country.

Mr. Amani said the U.S. move ran counter to the spirit of the April 14, 1988 Geneva accords on Afghanistan, which Washington and Moscow signed as co-guarantors, and under which Kabul and Islamabad agreed not to interfere in each others' internal affairs.

"At this stage of developments, the U.S. should support the process of dialogue—a dialogue for peace, rather than encourage one side," he said.

He argued that the Soviet Union was entitled to give military support to Kabul, as a U.N.-recognized government, and as a long-term bilateral treaty partner.

He said Mr Tomsen's job would be to "coordinate the extremists."

The United States and other Western countries closed their embassies here shortly before February 15, fearing for the safety of their staff.

Kabul Resumes Missile Attacks Near Border

BK0704140989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 7 (AFP)—Afghan Government forces attacked resistance positions near the Pakistan border with Scud missiles early Friday in the second such attack in a week, resistance sources said. There were no casualties in the attack near the Towr Kham gate, but 50 shops stocked with tires, automobile parts and other items were gutted, they said.

Kabul's forces had on March 29 attacked Afghan resistance positions with Soviet-supplied long-range surface-to-surface Scud missiles, causing a number of guerrilla casualties.

The missile attack Friday came amid fears that the war in Afghanistan would spill over into Pakistan, which supports the resistance struggle.

Kabul began using Scud missiles after the resistance increased pressure on Afghan troops defending the strategic eastern garrison city of Jalalabad for more than a month.

The resistance sources also said mujahidin guerrillas shot down an Afghan jet and a helicopter near Jalalabad Airport Friday morning with a Stinger missile and rockets. Attempts to reopen the Jalalabad-Kabul highway have been foiled by the resistance, they said.

Mujahidin Ignore Cease-Fire; Army Retaliates

LD0704162189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] An authoritative source from the Armed Forces reported to the BIA military section that the cease-fire announced by the Republic of Afghanistan in honor of the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan has been observed in some regions of the country. In some other regions, however, such as Nangarhar, Khowst, Gardeyz, (Turkotal) of Qandahar Province, Gereshk, Farah, Sarowbi District, Herat, Lowgar, Salang, and Vardak regions the cease-fire has been broken by the armed groups attached to Pakistan. No armed activities have been reported in other provinces.

The Armed Forces source added that Pakistani forces and armed groups protected by Pakistan have shelled residential areas of Jalalabad city and security posts around the city in the past 24 hours with rockets and other heavy weapons. As a result 9 inhabitants were martyred and another 11 wounded. Most of those martyred are women, children, and elders. One member of the Armed Forces was martyred and another five were injured. Four houses in Jalalabad city and one tank belonging to the Armed Forces were destroyed.

The courageous Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province have retaliated, and attacked and shelled the enemy's trenches and strong positions where the cease-fire was broken. As a result 148 persons were killed and another 155 were wounded. Three Pakistani militia members, two mercenaries from Saudi Arabia and a group commander attached to Pakistan were among those killed.

As a result of the Armed Forces' retaliatory blows the enemy's 2 mortar mines, 2 reactif units, 1 recoilless guns, 6 rocket launchers, 1 DShK, 63 light weapons, and 14 vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report the armed groups, in violating the cease-fire, have shelled Gardeyz city, Paktia Province, with heavy weapons, martyring three women and five children and damaging a number of houses and stores.

An Armed Forces source reported that armed groups attached to Pakistan have violated the cease-fire in Qandahar Province and shelled residential areas and security posts. The Armed Forces stationed in this province have responded to the enemy attacks, as a result of which 15 of the enemy forces were killed and 17 were wounded, and 27 enemy reactif shells, 16 rockets, and 55 mortar mines were seized by the Armed Forces.

The report adds that armed groups attached to Pakistan have shelled the residential areas of Gereshk city, Helmand Province, with rockets and heavy weapons, which did not cause any loss of life.

Cease-Fire Violations Detailed

LD0804182889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] An authoritative source of the Armed Forces reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section that the cease-fire declared by the Armed Forces Supreme Command—so that our faithful compatriots will fulfill their religious duties in a peaceful atmosphere—has over the past 24 hours been infringed by armed extremists linked with Pakistani military circles in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Faryab, Paktia, and Parwan Provinces and the Sarowbi District.

The Armed Forces source adds that joint Pakistani and groups linked with the Pakistani military forces fired various types of heavy weapons on the residential areas of Jalalabad and its environs from the directions of Kameh Sorkh Rud, and Samar Kheyl. Five residents, including two children were martyred and 11 others, including three women and three children, were wounded. As many as 13 houses, a market area, and one mosque were damaged. One member of the security forces was wounded.

The source adds that units and contingents based in Nangarhar Province mounted reciprocal operations against the firing and attacks of the enemy. Seventy-eight enemy personnel were killed and 55 others were wounded. A commander of the so called Hezb-e Eslami, Afzal, and a number of extremist leaders, along with a number of Pakistani and Saudi Arabian advisers and militia, were among those killed in Samar Kheyl.

Similarly, 2 of the enemy's mortars, 2 guns, 5 sets of reactif missiles, 4 arms and ammunition depots, 3 recoilless guns, 3 vehicles loaded with arms, 1 rocket launcher, 29 light weapons, and 2 DShK machine guns were destroyed.

According to another report, Pakistanis and groups linked with the Pakistani Army, in violation of the cease-fire, fired heavy weapons on security posts and residental areas along Kabul-Jalalabad highway in Sarowbi. One member of the security forces was killed and nine others were wounded. The Armed Forces based in the area very bravely mounted reciprocal action as a result of which 34 of the enemy were crushed and 25 others were seriously wounded. Moreover, one of the enemy's arms and ammunition depot, one recoilless gun, one set of reactif missiles, three rocket launchers, and one mortar were destroyed.

An Armed Forces source adds that extremist groups have fired heavy weapons at the dwellings of people in Paktia, Faryab, Qandahar and Parwan Provinces. A woman and two children were killed in Paktia, and one member of the security forces was martyred in Qandahar.

Heavy weapons firing in Faryab resulted in no loss of life. The security force based in the province inflicted crushing blows on Pakistani-linked extremists.

The situation in the rest of the country has been calm. No report on the infringement of the cease-fire has been reported.

Missiles, Ammunition Seized in Kabul 8 Apr

LD0804184389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Today regional control personnel of the Security Ward 8 of Kabul's Sarandoy Command discovered and seized surface-to-surface missiles, ammunition, and explosives. This seizure prevented the occurrence of unfortunate incidents in Kabul.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that Pakistan-based extremists, who disrupt the peace and tranquillity of our compatriots, have hidden and placed 25 electrical surface-to-surface missiles [as received], 8 kg of a tirotine-type explosive, and thousands of shells of heavy and light machineguns near Shaykh Adel Baba in Bagrami [Kabul Province]. They intended to injure a number of innocent people by firing

rockets and by setting off explosions during the sacred month of Ramadan, when all Kabul citizens are engaged in prayers to Almighty God and are fasting.

This conspiratorial and sinister plan of the criminal extremists was discovered and foiled in time with the cooperation of our peace-loving people.

Reportage on Battle for Control of Jalalabad

Resupply Attempts Foiled

BK0804022889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have foiled the Kabul regime's attempts to send supplies from Sarowbi to its troops engaged in fighting for control of Jalalabad. The mujahidin inflicted heavy loss of life on the Kabul regime troops and forced them to retreat.

The mujahidin also attacked the regime's security posts and occupied one of them. They also shot down a fighter plane and a helicopter over Jalalabad.

It is reported that the mujahidin attacked Kabul regime troops in Gazni Province, killing and injuring many of them and capturing five trucks and arms and ammunition.

Post Near Jalalabad Seized

BK0804112689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured another important post of (Qalah Mohmand), north of the besieged city of Jalalabad. The mujahidin also rocketed [as heard] a garrison near Jalalabad, causing huge damage. Kabul regime Air Force is reported to have bombed [words indistinct] in which four civilians were killed.

New Offensive Launched

BK0904155489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] The mujahidin today launched another offensive to capture positions around Jalalabad city. Attacks were carried out on Jalalabad airport, the military headquarters in the city's suburbs, the 81st Brigade, and [words indistinct] today.

Simultaneously, the mujahidin began attacks on the besieged city of Khowst in Paktia Province. The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY reports that three posts—(Khwan Gandum), (Khune Khwar), and (Jane Jana)—were seized by this morning. Fifty Kabul regime soldiers along with their weapons were also captured.

Meanwhile, the Afghan mujahidin have reiterated their determination to continue their war until the complete independence of Afghanistan and the establishment of an Islamic representative government is achieved. The interim Afghan government's Defense Ministry has issued a statement saying that jihad for the path of God is an Islamic duty and, especially in the holy month of Ramadan, it is like worshipping.

The statement said that the mujahidin alliance enjoys the support of the brotherly Islamic countries and the freedom-loving nations of the world. It rejected the Kabul regime's claim as baseless that the mujahidin are fighting with the assistance of foreign troops. The statement said that the Afghan mujahidin will never agree to secure their independence with the assistance of foreign troops.

Further on New Offensive

BK1004085489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The mujahidin in Afghanistan, following a plan, have launched another offensive with rockets, missiles, and artillery on military targets all around Jalalabad. A message by Haji Din Muhammad, the interim Afghan government's minister for national security, was distributed among the citizens during the new offensive on Jalalabad.

The message guaranteed the safety of the life and property of common citizens and asked them to help the mujahidin when they enter the city and not allow the Kabul regime forces to use their houses as military positions. In his message, Haji Din Muhammad assured the people of Jalalabad that the mujahidin do not intend to harm them.

Soviet journalists who recently visited the eastern city of Jalalabad in Afghanistan gave an account of the situation in the city. The PRAVDA correspondent reported after returning to [as heard] Jalalabad that rockets would burst every second throughout the day and night during his stay in the city. Craters could be seen in every meter of the airport's runway which made landing of any aircraft there impossible.

The mujahidin launched a rocket attack on Baghram airfield in Parvan Province and destroyed two jet planes, one helicopter, and two tanks. The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY has reported that the mujahidin also fired six rockets on Kabul regime positions in (Daud Garden) and two rockets on Kabul Airport.

Meanwhile, agency reports say seven more Soviet military experts have arrived in Kabul to operate Scud missiles. Kabul Radio has confirmed the reports of clashes between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar, Ghazni and Herat Provinces and in Sarobi.

AFP Updates Battle Situation

BK1004121189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 10 Apr 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, April 10 (AFP)—With no meaningful peace initiatives afoot, the war in Afghanistan seems condemned to costly set-piece battles for the cities in place of the guerrilla tactics used effectively against the Soviets.

Nine years of bitter guerrilla warfare against the Soviet troops who withdrew a little less than two months ago has left the U.S.- and Pakistan-backed mujahidin holding most of the countryside and the Soviet-backed Kabul government most of the cities.

"Those who wanted to go and join the rebels have gone, and those who are left will fight to the death," said PRAVDA journalist Vladimir Snegirov, who returned from Jalalabad, a city under mujahidin siege for the past five weeks. The eastern city was in ruins, he said, and shelling continued around the clock.

The government of President Najibullah resupplies the city, 150 kilometres (90 miles) from here, by helicopter by day and the mujahidin refurbish their fighters from Pakistan by night to avoid the heaviest of the government bombing.

By the weekend, Khowst, another eastern city, had come under attack and was bracing for a Jalalabad-type siege. Rockets were also rained on the southeastern city of Gardeyz, with most of the casualties civilian.

"If I go outside the city the mujahidin say I have been living in Kabul all these years, therefore I cannot pass," said a retired Army officer, now working as a translator in a state-owned bank here. His dilemma is shared by others in Kabul and, travellers say, in other Afghan cities.

People who have stayed throughout the war in one of the cities have the option of fleeing and joining the millions of refugees in Iran, Pakistan and other countries, trying their luck in passing mujahidin lines or fighting, or digging a deep bunker.

Set-piece battles are generally costlier in casualties and material than guerrilla warfare in the countryside. The weapons used in the battle for Jalalabad, supplied on the one side by the United States and Pakistan and the other side by the Soviet Union through a massive airlift to Kabul, have been devastating.

"Almost every building is damaged," the PRAVDA correspondent reported after 48 hours in the city. "The people are living in bunkers. There is no sugar, no rice, no flour, but plenty of meat and fruit because the animals cannot be fed and have to be slaughtered."

Ironically, he added, television was working, electricity supplies were good and the fact that the Kabul River runs through the city ensured a constant supply of water.

With Soviet-supplied helicopters able to land in the city, if not on the cratered runway of the government-held airport, there is no reason why the city should collapse, giving the mujahidin what they hoped to gain—a major city in which to base their interim government.

Foreign diplomats and observers no longer speculate about a collapse of the Najibullah government or even about the possibility of local ceasefires spreading throughout the country through war-weariness.

"If there was somebody who could speak for most of the people in the cities and the countryside and the refugee camps ... but there is nobody," said one Middle Eastern diplomat here.

He was referring to the possibility of the return of former Afghan King Zahir Shah, now elderly and in exile in Italy, and whose name in the days before the February 15 Soviet withdrawal was high on the list of those who could speak for the bulk of the Afghans left in the country—neither pro-mujahidin nor favoring the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

An East European diplomat said: "The West underestimated the Afghan Army and Najibullah. They will keep on fighting."

Most diplomats are still wondering how long the Afghan Army can withstand the spreading attacks in terms of manpower, but as the siege of Jalalabad drags on they are equally skeptical about how long the mujahidin can withstand the casualties that the set-piece battles entail.

Although no reliable casualty figures are available for Jalalabad, all agree that civilian casualties have been high, with estimates from both sides running into the thousands. At least 30,000 have fled across the Pakistan border to avoid the bombing, shelling and Scud-B missiles, and the PRAVDA correspondent said 50 to 60 civilians were admitted daily to Jalalabad's hospitals.

Unless their injuries are critical, he said, they were patched up and sent home, back to their bunkers. Flying them out of the city for treatment in Kabul was out of the question because of the danger entailed in getting helicopters in and out of the city.

The correspondent was appalled. "I have been here for eight years ... and I have never seen anything so terrible," he said, contrasting guerrilla hit-and-run raids with the set-piece battles involving so many civilians.

Mujahidin Attack Cities of Khowst, Ghazni 8 Apr

BK0904161589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 9 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels widened their offensive Saturday against Afghanistan's eastern cities, launching attacks against Khowst and Ghazni, a government spokesman here said Sunday.

The spokesman said the attacks on Khowst, only eight kilometres (five miles) from the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan, were backed by Pakistani and Saudi military advisors and were continuing Sunday.

He described the Khowst attacks as "wide and extensive" and said they consisted mostly of heavy shelling and rocketing. No casualties were immediately reported.

The attack on Ghazni, with a barrage of rocket and mortar fire, left nine civilians dead and 48 others, including three children wounded, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Ghazni is about 150 kilometres (90 miles) west of Khowst.

He did not say whether Afghan Government troops had retaliated for the rebel offensive in the two regions.

The spokesman declined to call the renewed attacks on the eastern cities a new phase in the mujahidin offensive, launched just 18 [figure as heard] days after the February 15 Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. "We would call it a new phase of adventurism," the spokesman said.

"Although the three-day-old unilaterally declared ceasefire has fallen apart in most parts of the country, the Afghan Army is duty-bound to attack to defend their home territory against the aggressors," he said.

The ceasefire announcement, made April 6 on the first day of the Moslem fasting month of Ramadan, was ignored by the mujahidin in the country's east and around Kabul, where resistance forces hijacked petrol trucks trying to reach the Afghan capital from the Soviet Union through the Salang pass.

Soviet journalists returning from the beseiged city of Jalalabad, which has been under continuous shelling since March 5, said some 50 injured civilians were reporting to the hospitals there daily. "Many are just (hastily) patched up and sent home," said one of the journalists, who flew into Jalalabad on a helicopter.

The eastern Afghan town has three hospitals, two of them run by the local civilian administration and one by the military. "No one knows how many civilians there are now left in the city, it seems as if there is not one house that has not been hit," the journalist said, adding that although the Afghan Army held the airport in Jalalabad, it was too dangerous to land there because of intense rocket-fire.

The adjacent military base of Samar Kheyl was in mujahidin hands, the Soviet journalists said. "It is very dangerous, rocketing continuing all the time," said one.

An estimated 50,000 mujahidin-fired rockets have fallen on Jalalabad, some 150 kilometres (90 miles) east of Kabul near the Pakistan border. The Afghan Government declines to take Western journalists to Jalalabad, saying the trip is too dangerous.

Khowst, Ghazni Battles Detailed

LD0904171789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Despite the cease-fire declaration by the Armed Forces Supreme Command of the Republic of Afghanistan in honor of the sacred month of Ramadan, the armed extremists attached to Pakistan have broken the cease-fire by firing heavy weapons and combat activities in the provinces of Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar, Ghazni, Herat, and in the Sarowbi District.

An authoritive source of the Armed Forces reported to the BIA [BAKHATAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section that joint forces of Pakistan and Pakistani-backed elements, paying no attention to the holiness of the sacred month of Ramadan, fired on the residential areas of Jalalabad city and its surroundings, from the direction of Samar Khel, Kameh, and Shura Rud.

The brave and heroic units and companies of that province gave them crushing blows. As a result of retaliatory attacks by the artillery force and air attacks by the Armed Forces, 195 enemy personnel were killed and another 142 were injured. Among those killed are advisers and militias of the militias from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The enemy 78 light weapons, 26 rocket launchers, 12 mortars, 1 DShK machinegun and two [words indistinct] belonging to the enemy were destroyed. As a result of mopping-up operations in the village of Khosh Kombar, 30 shells of the recoilless gun and 10 shells of rocket launchers belonging to the armed extremists were destroyed.

The report adds that the armed extremists headed by foreign advisers, by ignoring the cease-fire declared in honor of the sacred month of Ramadan by the Armed Forces Supreme Command, fired onto residential areas and security posts alongside Sarowbi-Jalalabad highway. The brave units and companies of the Armed Forces resorted to reciprocal action in reponse to the enemy attack and violation and inflicted heavy blows on them.

The Armed Forces attacks were strong and resulted in death, forcing the enemy to retreat from a number of positions which were in its control and their positions

were captured by our hero Armed Forces. In the course of these operations 5 Armed Forces personnel were injured, 45 enemy personnel were killed, and another 38 were injured.

An arms and ammunition depot, a DShK, a launching system for surface-to-surface missiles, two mortars, and seven enemy strongholds were destroyed. Seventeen enemy anti-vehicle mines and nine anti-personnel mines were defused. The Armed Forces' source adds that on 18th of Hamal [6 April] the extremists backed by Pakistan military men fired 72 reactif [missile] rounds and 115 mortar rounds onto residential areas and security posts of Ghazni city and its surroundings.

Nine residents including 2 children were martyred and 38 others including women and children were injured. In the course of these criminal attacks two security personnel were martyred and six others injured. As a result of retaliatory attacks by the Armed Forces, nine enemy personnel were killed and a number were injured.

Also, an authoritive source in the Armed Forces reports that the Pakistani forces, Saudi advisers and mercenaries, and armed groups attached to them yesterday embarked on a heavy and extensive attack on the surroundings of Khowst major district yesterday.

The report adds that the enemy attack on the surroundings of Khowst major district is accompanied and supported by heavy and long range weapons fire by the Pakistani Army. The source adds that the attack on Khowst is being led under the command of two Panjabis, Mali Khan, and Janbaz Shah, who are officers in Pakistan's Army.

The Armed Forces units and companies are defending the positions with bravery and heroism and are inflicting crushing blows on Pakistani forces and Pakistani-backed groups. Reports on casualties of these incidents have not yet been received.

According to another report, armed extremists attached to Pakistan fired heavy weapons on Herat city and Samangan Province. A Herat resident and a Samangan Province resident were martyred and two others were injured.

The BIA military section adds that security forces in Samangan Province yesterday crushed a number of plunderer extremists who were plundering the people's properties along Marzar-e Sharif and Samangan highway in the region of Atam Khel. Five extremists were killed and 10 others were captured, along with 8 light machineguns and 3 heavy machineguns.

Bangladesh

Reportage on Visit by Afghan Mujahidin Leader

Arrives in Dhaka 8 Apr

BK0904130589 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] A delegation of the Afghan mujahidin led by Mr Gulbuddin Hikmatyar arrived in Dhaka on Saturday [8 April] on a 2-day visit. Foreign Secretary Mohammad Mohsin received the delegation at the airport. Talking to newsmen, Mr Hikmatyar expressed optimism that more countries would recognize the mujahidin government. So far, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Bahrain have accorded recognition. Mr Hikmatyar claimed that more than 95 percent of the Afghan territory have been liberated and the mujahidin would soon set up their government inside Afghanistan.

Meets Foreign Minister 9 Apr

BK0904161289 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, accompanied by other members of the Afghan mujahidin delegation, called on the foreign minister in Dhaka today.

The mujahidin leader informed the minister of the present situation in Afghanistan, as well as various measures taken by the mujahidin for national reconciliation and formation of a broad-based government in Kabul.

Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud informed the Afghan leaders of Bangladesh's position on the Afghan issue and the consistent support Dhaka had extended for the restoration of the rights of the Afghan people and the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes.

Meets With President Ershad

BK1004014289 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] The visiting Afghan mujahidin leader, Mr Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, called on President Ershad in Dhaka last night. During the meeting Mr Hikmatyar apprised the president of the latest situation in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and Foreign Secretary Mohammad Moshin were present.

Ershad Stresses Implementation of Nuclear Project

BK0904132789 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] President Ershad has directed the concerned authorities to stress proper implementation of the Ruppur nuclear power station project. The president issued the directive after the presentation of the techno-economic feasibility study of the project in Dhaka today.

President Ershad described the pr oject as vitally important to meet their growing deman nd of power supply in the country's western belt whic h is expected to be increased to 1,200 megawatt by 1995. Presently, the power generation capacity in the c country's western belt stands at about 250 megawatt.

Energy Minister A.B.M. Ghulam Mustafa, while introducing the presentation, gave a brief resume on the Ruppur nuclear power station pro ject since it was conceived in 1961 [as heard]. He said that in 1986, a high-level national committee was set up by the president with himself as its chairman to initiate a fresh move to implement the project. Vice President A.K.M. Nurual Islam, ministers, secretaries and other senior officials were present during the presentation.

Government To Send Emergency Supplies to Nepal

BK0904001289 Hong Kong AFP in English 2107 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Dhaka, April 8 (AFP)—Bangladesh said Saturday [8 April] it was sending emergency supplies of diesel, kerosene and sugar to Nepal to meet shortages caused by an Indian trade suspension, the official BSS news agency reported.

Dhaka will supply Nepal with 1,000 tons of diesel oil, an equal quantity of kerosene and 4,000 tons of sugar to counter shortages caused by India's move following the expiry of trade and transit treaties on March 23. BSS said the supplies were being sent on an emergency basis but did not specify how they would be delivered to the land-locked Himalayan Kingdom.

The agency quoted a Foreign Office spokesman as expressing concern over the difficulties faced by the Nepalese people due to the trade suspension, which Kathmandu says has prevented the supply of essential goods such as medicine. The spokesman hoped that these problems would be resolved and that Nepal's trade relations with its neighbours would return to normal soon.

Bangladesh, India and Nepal are all members of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

India

Charges Filed Against 5 in Indira Gandhi Case

BK0704163589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The Special Investigation Team today filed a charge-sheet in the Indira Gandhi assassination case against five accused in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Delhi. The accused include the United Akali Dal chief, Mr S.S. Mann, and a terrorist, Atinder Pal Singh.

Both were allegedly involved in a larger conspiracy to wage war against the Government of India, promote disharmony among different religious communities, and in the conspiracy to assassinate the late prime minister. The other accused are Jagmohan Singh alias Tony, Dalip Singh, and Ratan Singh, who has since died.

According to the charge-sheet, S.S. Mann and Atinder Pal Singh had planned to assassinate Mrs Gandhi at Nagpur in September 1984, but could not execute their plan for want of appropriate weapons. After this, the two decided to do the job through the men posted in Mrs Gandhi's security. Accordingly, Atinder Pal Singh came to Delhi and with the assistance of the late Ratan Singh established contact with some of the prime minister's security personnel and like-minded people in Delhi.

He located Subinspector Beant Singh, posted in the prime minister's security, as the most suitable person for the task. Atinder Pal persuaded Kehar Singh to indoctrinate Beant Singh and go through Amrit Chakran [a Sikh rite]. The assassination was carried out on the 31st of October 1984 by Beant Singh and Constable Satwant Singh, both in the prime minister's security, acting in tandem.

The charge-sheet says the investigation revealed that after the "Blue Star Operation" [to flush out terrorists from the Golden Temple], S.S. Mann, Atinder Pal Singh, Jagmohan Singh, and Dalip Singh held a number of closed-door meetings in Bombay to wage war against the government. For this, they agreed to commit illegal acts in order to create chaos, confusion, and anarchy by hijacking planes, breaching canals, disrupting power supply, poisoning drinking water supplies, destroying the Parliament house, and damaging blast furnaces in steel plants.

They were also alleged to have agreed to spread communal disharmony, kidnap the children of VVIP [Very Very Important Persons], including Mr Rajiv Gandhi, besides eliminating Mrs Gandhi, in a bid to establish the so-called Khalistan.

According to the charge-sheet, S.S. Mann tried to misuse his position as a police officer by addressing a letter to the Amnesty International for taking up the cause of the Sikhs. He, along with Atinder Pal and Jagmohan Singh, drafted and sent a letter to the president of Pakistan in July 1984 seeking intervention for the so-called liberation of Sikhs.

The charge-sheet says that they also drafted and issued a pamphlet containing seditious and inflammable [as heard] material. It emphasized that the struggle for liberation was not merely limited to Punjab, but had wider international implications. It would ensure freedom of Kashmir, stability in Pakistan, and foil the designs of the Soviet Union, and also ensure the freedom of Afghans, the pamphlet added.

The charge-sheet also brings to light that Atinder Pal Singh crossed over to Pakistan and he was given a free hand for propagating the establishment of Khalistan and to incite the Sikh youth to take up arms against the Government of India and create anarchy. He was also provided facilities for training Sikh young men in arms and to contact foreign-based activists who rendered financial help. The charge-sheet points out that Atinder Pal Singh had admitted in press interviews his complicity in various illegal plans and acts.

According to the charge-sheet, S.S. Mann, being a highly-placed police officer in Punjab during "Operation Blue Star" had deliberately exaggerated and distorted the happenings in the state in the letters addressed to the president of India. He was dismissed from service in July 1984. He made an unsuccessful attempt to flee the country by crossing over to Nepal on the 29th of November 1984. He was intercepted and apprehended on the India-Nepal border. Incriminating documents containing seditious material were recovered from him. Atinder Pal Singh has been an activist of the All India Sikh Student Federation from Bhopal since 1971.

Jagmohan Singh, alias Tony, was a lecturer in Jai Hind College, Bombay. He was also an activist of the Maharashtra Sikh Student Federation. Dalip Singh was a professor of history in Khalsa College, Bombay, and a founder-member of the Maharashtra Sikh Student Federation.

Gandhi Commends Soviet Decision on Uranium

BK0804075189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister has described as a positive step the Soviet Union's decision to halt production of all weapons-grade enriched uranium from this year. In an informal chat with newsmen at the defense investiture ceremony in New Delhi this morning, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed the hope that other countries will follow the same and take a lead to work for nuclear disarmament.

Delhi Confirms 24 Killed, 150 Injured in Assam

BK0804090689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam, the death toll in yesterday's incident at Rajapukhari area of Assam-Nagaland border in Golaghat District has gone up to 24, where a group of suspected miscreants opened fire on the inmates of 3 villages. Sources in Guwahati say about 150 people were injured and conditions of many are reported to be critical. All the injured persons have been admitted to the hospital at Golaghat.

The raiders also burned down about 200 houses before they sneaked into Nagaland across the border. Police reinforcement have rushed to the place of the incident and the situation is reported to be under control.

The state home minister, Mr Brighu Kumar Phukan, has left for Rajapukhari area to have an on the spot assessment.

Relief Camps Opened for Victims

BK0904083989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] The Assam government has opened three relief camps at Rajapukhari areas at the boundary with Nagaland in Golaghat District for giving shelter to the affected people of Friday's firing incidents by Naga miscreants. Official sources told AIR [All India Radio] Guwahati correspondent that about 1,500 affected people have already taken shelter in the camps and more people are still coming. The situation is, however, under control. Additional CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and Assam police forces have been pressed for extensive patrolling in the disputed areas along the Assam-Nagaland border.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the firing incident by Naga miscreants has gone up to 25. The condition of 16 seriously injured persons is reported to be critical.

Assam Bodo Student Faction Agrees to Talks

BK0904160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam, a faction of the All Bodo Students Union says it is prepared to hold talks with the state government next week, provided its demand of a central government representative also be present in the meeting is met. This was stated in a press release at Guwahati today. They have also decided to withdraw their previous announcement of a 25 days bundh [strike] call from the 18th of this month.

3 Persons Killed by 'Subversives' in Srinagar

BK0704165089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three persons were killed when subversives opened fire at a couple of places in downtown Srinagar. Trouble started after Friday prayers when some Pakistan-trained youths opened fire and tried to attack two police stations. Police used tear gas and resorted to firing in the air to disperse them.

At (Gaukadal), one miscreant was attempting to throw a petrol bomb at police, but it exploded in his hand resulting in serious injuries to this person.

Shops remained closed for the fifth day in Srinagar. Buses were also off the road. A building was damaged and a jeep burned as a result of activities of miscreants. Three vehicles were also damaged.

In curfew bound Anantnag town, the situation is under control and no untoward incident is reported. In Baramula and Sopor also life was normal.

The chief minister met the state governor in Jammu today and apprised him about the situation.

'Angry Mobs' Clash With Police

BK0804092489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, violence continued in various parts of Srinagar city for the 6th day today. Angry mobs clashed with the police. Police had to resort to tear gas and firing in the air when some Pakistani-trained youths again fired on the police at a couple of places. The situation continues to be tense and shops and business establishments remained closed.

In Anantnag town, curfew relaxation period passed off peacefully in the morning today. Government has, however, not confirmed the report of a bomb blast in Mutton Chowk in the Anantnag town.

'Extremists' Kill 2 Policemen in Manipur 8 Apr

BK0804155489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] In Manipur, two police personnel, including a lady IPS [Indian Police Service] probationer, were killed in an ambush by extremists at (Lamgshan Kunu) near Imphal this afternoon. Three other policemen were seriously injured. Official sources in Imphal said the incident occurred when the extremists attacked a police patrol party.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Addresses Assembly on Leadership

LD0904101689 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today that the Iranian nation had so much confidence in Imam Khomeyni's views that it did not leave any place for foreign influence.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who made the remark at the first open session of the Majlis in the new year, was referring to the resignation late last month of Ayatolah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri from the position of deputy leadership of the Islamic revolution.

The speaker described the event as "rare and very significant" in the history of the Islamic revolution and Iran.

He reiterated that all the country's officials obeyed the imam's views for the sake of the society and the ruling system and they all rallies behind him.

Referring to the colorful commentaries made by "watchful enemies and ignorant people" after the incident, he said they were all wrong because "they don't know the Iranian society and our revolution."

"The reality is what the imam raised with the people," he said, adding that the people's trust could solve many problems.

As the imam put it, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted, the move was in the interest of the Islamic Republic system and the reason for it was the issue of management and responsibility of the revolutionary system which needed firm leadership.

He ruled out the idea of a "power struggle" in Iran and said it was set forth by counterrevolutionaries and those who did not know the Islamic revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Ayatollah Montazeri himself had clearly rejected the existence of any differences between him and the imam. He resigned immediately after learning about the imam's view, he said.

Praising the imam for the decision, he said personal relationship has never been an obstacle for the leader of the revolution in his decision-makings. "And it is a lesson for us to follow this path," he stressed.

Turning to Lebanon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said France's intervention in the country's affairs was an alarm for Muslims. He warned the big powers that the idea of returning to Lebanon was a mistake and that the world Muslims would not let this happen again.

Further on Address to Majlis

LD0904131189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Apr 89

["Remarks" by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the first open Majlis session of the new year on 9 April in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During the period when the honorable deputies were not here and the Majlis was in recess, a rare, important, historical, and unprecedented event took place in our country and in our revolution. It would be apt for us to consider this incident at the start of the Majlis in the new year. I refer to the issue of the future leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Of course, when informed enemies and ill-informed people come across such an important event, they interpret it according to their own understanding or the way they want. Whatever has been said outside our society so far has been mostly incorrect and inaccurate. Perhaps the reason for this is that those who are [words indistinct] are not familiar with our society, revolution, Islam, or the leadership. In addition, those who are prejudiced will resort to any means in order to make trouble and cause a rift.

The truth of the matter is what the imam clearly told the people. It is one of the imam's special characteristics to discuss issues with the peope frankly, clearly, and [word

indistinct]. The people's trust in this [word indistinct] can solve many problems, as it always has been. His excellency the imam said the interests of the system were the motive behind this action and the two important points he raised as the reason for it. This involves management and the leadership's responsibility toward the revolutionary and Islamic system, which requires extraordinary and (?unwavering) leadership in the course of global events. You gentlemen have already (?heard the imam's message).

These (?intrigues), which the (?enemies) abroad or their agents inside the country have perpetrated, or might perpetrate, will not affect our people. In any case, we must be alert. The claim that a power base exists in our country is made by those who do not know this revolution. Responsibility here is based on the performance of one's duty and on service to mankind, not in terms of position and power.

Therefore, (?there are no two ways about how to carry out one's duties better in our system). Those who (?believe this) know full well that they are rejected by our nation, its leadership and authorities. (?What our people appreciate) is that in the period of the revolution, positions of responsibility entail very many difficulties and lack materialistic and worldly returns, unless one is corrupt, in which case he has no place in this system.

The issue of a difference of opinion between his eminence the imam and Ayatollah Montazeri, if it exists, again is not something [words indistinct] because Ayatollah Montazeri clearly and decisively declared his obedience, even before that reply. When he understood that the imam's view was that he should not be in the deputy leadership position, he resigned of his own accord. The imam, also, told the people about the issue clearly and said without any ambiguity that [words indistinct].

Another point our enemies cannot understand is that our nation has such trust and peace of mind with respect to the views of his eminence the imam, that there is no empty spot in their hearts into which they can penetrate. In addition, the leadership here takes the form of a regency [velayat], which is part of the basic and fundamental beliefs of our revolution, the basis of our revolution. Throughout the period of struggle and after the victory of the revolution, the people have always seen the decisions of the imam as directed toward what is best and have always seen in their own minds and in reality the many instances of the blessings of those decisions.

Even without the regency, simply because of the trust that exists in the rule of the leadership and [words indistinct] of his eminence the imam, the minds of our people are peaceful, and that peace of mind is inviolable. The country's officials, too, in the face of [words indistinct] of his eminence the imam are all (?decisive) because they consider it both as right and as a means of (?meeting) the interests of the society.

Therefore, our nation—God be praised—our noble clergy, our country's officials, and the entire nation are uniformly behind the imam's decisions. They give their support and we, the deputies of the Majlis, also are a part of those same people and those officials. We stride along the same path. (?As a result of) his eminence the imam's letter, Ayatollah Montazeri's leadership dossier [parvandeh] was separated from his scholarly, seminary dossier. That position has its own place, and the seminary, the 'ulema, and people will benefit from it. This issue also has its own place, and undoubtedly his eminence the imam has something in mind in that connection. He will present his idea at the appropriate time.

Therefore, we sincerely thank the eminent leader for revealing his (?courage) in that way for the sake of preserving the system and the interests of the system. Nothing, not any affection or friendship, nor any relationship, can prevent his decision and the implementation of his decisions. We know with what bitterness, from the point of view of emotion and sympathy, he made that decision.

Undoubtedly, his affection for Ayatollah Montzeri is primary and at the highest point throughout the world. Nevertheless, when the system demands something, when the interests of Islam demand it, everything must be sacrificed. This is what he did. This is a lesson for us that we must continue that path. (?It has been asked of us) to explain the interests of the system and the explanations which I have given you are an indication toward that very just command which we had from him [Khomeyni].

We have another concern these days which is important in my opinion. It must be given attention. It comes from outside Iran, but it concerns us and that is the start of French intervention in Lebanon as a scout for Western colonialists. It is an alarm bell. They who, due to the deadly blow inflicted by the Lebanese people, were expelled from Lebanon and ran away, must not think that the people of Lebanon have changed. The idea of returning to Lebanon is a mistake. Under no circumstances will the free-thinking Muslims of the world allow such a thing. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Daily Urges 'Clarification' of Future Leadership

LD0804095489 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—A daily here Saturday called for the clarification of the future leadership issue following the resignation last month of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

ABRAR wrote that the Council of Experts, which must one day decide on who would lead the Islamic Republic, should act to give people confidence about the future. "The heaviest and most important duty of each and every honorable member of the Council of Experts is to respond to this question," the editorial added.

Montazeri stepped down in the interest of the Islamic state but the immediate question then was "who will take his place?" The nearly-80 member Council of experts "must quench this thirst... and their careful and prudent decision can calm the hearts of Muslims and thwart the future arrogant propaganda noises."

It quoted Article 107 of the Constitution that if no qualified jursiprudent was accepted by the majority of people, the experts will have to choose a jurisprudent or a council of 3 to 5 jurisprudents to lead the Islamic Republic after Imam Khomeyni's demise.

"There is hope that in view of what the world of Islam expects regarding this selection and the crucial importance of this issue, we will once again witness the despair of the enemies of Islam by the careful selection of the Council of Experts."

The morning daily lashed out at the foreign propaganda against the Islamic Republic in connection with the leadership issue and the Western and Eastern media were ignorant of how the Islamic government operated. "The acceptance of Ayatollah Montazeri's resignation by Imam Khomeyni proved once more the stability of the Islamic state," it said.

Pro-Montazeri Demonstrations in Esfahan Noted

TA0704194089 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The latest reports from Esfahan indicate that the city was tense yesterday. Supporters of Ayatollah Montazeri staged demonstrations in Esfahan's streets. In several instances these demonstrations turned violent, and clashes took place between the demonstrators and the regime's agents.

Clashes Between IRGC, Montazeri Supporters

LD0904181389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Just as was predicted, following the withdrawal of Ayatollah Montazeri from his position as deputy leader to Khomeyni, the crisis within the ruling clique took a new, critical turn and acquired wider dimensions. Bloody clashes between the supporters of Ayatollah Montazeri and Khomeyni's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] in Najafabad 2 April have killed and injured many persons. The clashes continue and tens of Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters have been arrested.

It is said that the regime's prisons in Tehran and the provinces, which had become relatively empty after the massacre of political prisoners, are once again filling up with group arrests of the regime's opponents. In this connection, the security measures of the regime have intensified in the primary and secondary passes of the provinces, especially in Azarbayjan, Bakhtaran, Ilam, and Khuzestan. Right now, all the security forces are in a state of alert in these provinces.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0704190189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1540 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Second Friday prayer sermon delivered by 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili at Tehran University on 7 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] In this second sermon, I have decided to speak to you about two or three matters which, in my opinion, are worth mentioning. The first issue is one about which some people sometimes ask questions or about which it is sometimes said that questions exist in some people's minds: the leadership, the deputy leadership, the system's future. What will happen?

I want to say this to you: The issue has two aspects. One aspect is that Muslims are truly concerned about the system, the future, the Constitution, Muslims' future, and such things. While that is a very good thing—it is a sign of affection for the system, affection for the system of Islamic government—when a person likes something very much, he will think about it more; he will ask more questions. At times he feels anxious. Nevertheless, let me tell you something. We have a blessing and God has still preserved that blessing for us. It is a very great blessing. May God, for the sake of those who are close to His threshold, not deprive us from the enjoyment of that blessing! [crowd chants] That is the presence of the leader.

In all revolutions, certain problems arise. Eighty odd years ago, we, that is, our predecessors, wrote the Constitution. They soon noticed that some things had to be added; some matters had to be foreseen. They drew up something called an amendment and, in their own minds, in their own view, they amended the Constitution.

In other places, too, places where revolutions have occured, such things have happened. However, sometimes problems arise after the leadership [as heard] that creates difficulties. Sometimes, problems arise in the presence of the leader. If they arise after the leadership, whether weak or strong, the possibility of deviation, the possibility that some principles may not be observed, the possibility that full care will not be taken, such possibilities exist.

However, if problems arise in the presence of the leader—especially a leader like his eminence the imam, with all the unique qualities that the eminent leader of our revolution possesses, with all his care, with his full attention—there is no room whatsoever for any anxiety from anyone. Personally, I do not feel the slightest anxiety in that respect.

Think back to 10 years ago. We did not have the Constitution; we did not have these principles; we did not have this system. It was the leader who came and completely altered the situation, God be praised. That leader, with that same decisiveness, with that same care,

with that same attention, with that same wisdom, is still here. In small or great matters, when he feels that something must be said, something attended to, something shouted over, something taken care of, he is there. There is no need for anxiety. [crowd chants]

The second aspect is the triviliazation of the matter. No, you were concerned about it. That is very good. After all, both the Constitution and the future of this system and also the leadership, all those problems, God willing, with the presence of the leader, with his care, with his wisdom, will be dealt with just as in the past 10 years. And may God grant long life to the leader. [crowd chants]

The other issue is this: Why did the issue of the deputy leadership take that form? That issue, for those who are abroad, who in their own opinion constantly present us with analyses—liberals, extremists--saying that person is undermining someone else, that person is doing I do not know what, the kinds of things which they broadcast from their loudspeakers; or else issues which are raised inside the country by those who are not terribly delighted with the system; those who are waiting for some problem to arise somewhere, sometime, so that they can moan a bit, say something, or grin a bit. [sentence as heard] Do you know where the root of that lies? This matter needs some further explanation. However, I do not want to explain at great length. I want to finish this in a few sentences.

The difference between our system and systems throughout the world lies in the criteria. We have in the world two kinds of criteria for judging, assessing, measuring. One is human standards and the other is divine criteria. In the case of human standards, they are just what you see in the world: Michel 'Awn has them, Saddam Husayn has them. Let me see now, the East has them, the West has them. One day they support Fidel Castro in Cuba to such an extent that they take the world to the brink of atomic war.

Today, the leader of that place gets up and goes there and openly tells Fidel Castro: You do not have the right to export revolution; what is it to you? Let people do whatever they want. I oppose that. That is their standards. They want to know what they should do to maintain themselves; how to maintain their policies, their position, their power—power struggles, other kinds of struggle: all that falls under human standards.

Brothers and sisters. Do not forget that our system is a divine system. In a divine system, actions, inactions, appointments, removals, presences, absences, peace, war all must be assessed according to divine criteria. How much do those two standards of judgment differ? The difference between these two standards of judgment is greater than the difference between the East and the West. And if we want to speak of degrees, if we measure in degrees, so to speak, it is a question of 180 degrees. Have you ever seen in the world, among those who possess human standards, anyone speaking or taking steps against himself, against his own power, against his own existence?

Look at Michel 'Awn! Michel 'Awn accepts being Israel's servant. He and Saddam become very, friendly, so to speak. He begins by killing, beginning with babies and going on to killihg old men. He causes the dismemberment of a country, all of that simply because he wants to maintain his position. That is human standards.

It is not only Michel 'Awn. Anyone who finds an opportunity turns into another Michel 'Awn. However, in the case of divine criteria let me give you two examples: You know that the position of marja' [source of emulation] is the highest position in Shi'ism. The position of marja' is not the monarchy, it is not the presidency, it is not even the position of leader. The position that you find our eminent imam possessing is due to his being a marja'. Otherwise, we have had leaders who were not marja'. We had them during the constitutional period, we had them afterward. None of them had that position. [passage omitted] The position of marja' is the highest position. And it is the position of the leader of the world's Shi'ites, not the leader of a country. [passage omitted]

Therefore, for us who are familiar with such yardsticks and positions it is obvious that sometimes it is required that somebody with high status must be on the arena. At another time, the interest of Islam requires that such a person not appear on the arena. If the interest of Islam required somebody to be in the middle of arena then he must be there; if Islam required him to be on the periphery of the arena then that is where he must be. This is neither a power struggle nor a conspiracy. It is none of these.

We see that during the time of our imams such things have happened. Esma'il, son of Ja'far [seventh infallible imam] had a very high status—today the Ismailia sect follows him and they do not follow His Highness Musa, the son of Ja'far. Esma'il had a high status and was the favorite son of Imam Sadeq Ja'far, God's greetings be upon him. But the order was that Musa, the son of Ja'far, must be the imam after his father Imam Sadeq. [passage omitted]

These issues have already been solved by Islamic yardsticks—such as the issue of Imam Baqer Musa and others. May God keep the blissful existence of the imam as well as his associates immune from all curses.

Another problem which has something to do with the judicial power, is the problem of the campaign against brigands.

We must enforce God's edicts without delay. It is 2 or 3 months since we began this campaign. I must tell you that we have amassed some statistics which show that from the point of view of speed and decisiveness in dealing with brigands we have had very good results.

Those who used to take hostages, kidnap children, make highways insecure, the brigands and those who used to resort to extortion—I do not want to say that these problems have been fully resolved, but according to reports there has been a great improvement. We have an office to follow up our operations. It gives us reports from all over Iran. We have confronted those brigands in a decisive manner and we will continue to do so. [crowd chants]

As for the smugglers of narcotics. One of the most infected areas was Kerman and its suburbs. Yesterday the Kerman religious judge and public prosecutor were here to take part in a seminar. They approached me and told me that originally the smugglers thought that the crack-down was a temporary measure but now that they have realized the campaign is to continue, then we must say that smuggling has dropped significantly. [passage omitted]

The third issue concerns profiteering and hoarding. Here I must explain some legal points. I must also make a request: The time for enforcement of the law is approaching. On 9 April, the Ministry of Commerce will issue its first statement. It concerns price tagging. Meanwhile, tomorrow the month of Ramadan starts. It is God's month. For the sake of God, humanity, and Islam please engage in trade, make profits, and make a living, but do not engage in stealing, hoarding, and anything which disrupts the country's economic situation. Do not make people uneasy. [passage omitted] If you do so, then as far as we are concerned, God knows that the judiciary will have no mercy on anyone.

Of course, our jurisdiction is limited and I will explain. Please pay attention. Tomorrow, do not expect anything more than the limits of the law from the judicial power. The law has divided the areas of jurisdiction. Government ministries, factories, companies, and other government organizations and institutions and any entity which enjoys up to 50 percent of its budget from government assistance—none of them has anything to do with the judicial power. Their case has been assigned for state punishment. The government will investigate them.

You must know this so that you may not say that the judges and Musavi did not do their tasks. You must know where our powers are limited. The law says the private sector is our jurisdiction. Even in the private sector investigation, discovery, and inspection are not our job. This is the job of the Ministry of Commerce and of a commission. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, I was breifing the religious judges and others on this topic; they told me that people think everything to do with profiteering falls under our jurisdiction. I told them that I will explain that in the private sector, until a file is opened it is not our concern; only the determination of punishment is the job of the judicial powers. I said yesterday and tell you today that they must deal decisively with what concerns them. [passage omitted]

I also ask the government to cooperate within the limits of its possibilities. I have heard that the prices of some goods are to rise. If that is true then I fear that these campaigns and programs may fail, God forbid. There must be coordination. It may sometime be necessary to raise prices. Here I have nothing to say, except that all organs must work in unison.

Meshkini Affirms Validity of Islamic Government

LD0704192389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The soul-nurturing Friday prayers in Qom this week were led by Ayatollah Meshkini on the Al-Qods Friday prayer premises with the participation of professors and clergymen from the religious seminaries, the esteemed families of martyrs, pilgrims to the sacred shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh [Sister of Imam Reza who is buried in Qom] and other strata of the monotheistic and God-seeking people of that town.

In his sermons the Friday prayers imam of Qom counseled the participants in the prayers to be pious and avoid sinning. Referring to the month of Ramadan he called on the people to take part in the feast of God and to observe the special teachings and injunctions concerning Ramadan and to benefit from God's blessings and bounties during this time.

In another part of his sermons, Ayatollah Meshkini referred to God's promise about the final domination of the believers in the world and, by quoting certain verses and traditions about this issue, he pointed out: God Almighty has promised that He will bestow strength and capability upon the believers so that they can spread Islam throughout the world. This will be achieved with the appearance of his holiness, the lord of the ages, may God hasten his noble advent, and God's just government and Koranic injunctions will be established in the world.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the fact that anyone who wishes to arise under the pretext of being the mahdi [the hidden imam] will be defeated, saying: Until the appearance of the lord of the age, may God hasten his glad advent, no one can claim the establishment of God's just government. However, this does not mean that no one is entitled to form a government and control the fate and administer the affairs of Muslims.

Ayatollah Meshkini added: If the imam of ummah rose up and brought victory to the Islamic uprising in Iran, one should not take a position against the Islamic

revolution by arguing that
government of the lord of t
glad advent, may last. More
that the present Islamic g
because it is incumbent up
to form a just Islamic gov
their own destiny and their
it no goverment except the
the age, may God hasten his
over, one should not expect
overnment is bound to fail
on Muslims, if they are able,
ernment and take charge of
r affairs.

Khomeyni Orders End to Warfront Aid Spending

LD0804115889 Tehran Dom 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

mestic Service in Persian

[Text] Imam Khomeyni has
of the Basij, the supervis
collected and allocated pe
officials in charge of the peo
against wrong.
thanked the officer in charge
or at the headquarters that
ople's donations, and other
ople's aid to the fronts of right

In a letter, the supervisor is
whatever funds are available
people's aid and to conclu
imam's letter is as follows:
required to properly expend
de to the headquarters for the
ude the affair. The text of

In the name of God, the comp
Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam M
visor of the Basij. May your b
for your efforts, all the Basij s
in charge of people's aid for
against wrong, the ones who p
Islam, the revolution, and Ira
days of epic and jihad.
passionate, the merciful. Your
Mr Rahmani, respected super-
blessings continue. Thank you
sisters and brothers, and those
the fronts of the war of right
provided a valuable service to
an with their efforts during the

Your Excellency is one of t
one of my good friends. Tr
are available at the headqu
proper way and conclude th
the long-time strugglers and
y to expend whatever funds
arters for people's aid in a
he affair within 6 months.

I ask Exalted God for your s
success. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi K
Khomeyni

Envoys to EC Countries B Briefed on Rushdie

LD0804110289 Tehran Dom 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

mestic Service in Persian

[Text] The Islamic Republic
EEC countries, together wit
for Europe and the United
Khamene'i this morning.
c of Iran's ambassadors in the
h the deputy foreign minister
d States, met with President

According to a Central New
referred to the publication
the agents of world arroga
countries imagined that th
wished against Islam and
under the guise of the freed
even insult the holy prop
benedictions be upon him a
ws Unit report, the president
of "The Satanic Verses" by
ance, saying: Some Western
hey could say anything they
Islamic sanctities, and that
dom of expression they could
phet, God's salutations and
and his progeny.

However, as a result of the imam's edict on the author of that book, of the decisive position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its support by the world's Muslims and the Islamic Conference Organization, once again the greatness of Islam and the depth of Islamic conviction revealed themselves to the world. The West realized that it cannot under any circumstances insult Islamic sanctities of the world's Muslims. Therefore, it was forced to retreat.

The president added: The edict of the imam of ummah on the apostate author of "The Satanic Verses" is a religious and unchangeable edict which condemns the author to execution unconditionally because he has insulted the sanctities of the more than 1 billion Muslims in the world.

Continuing his remarks, the president referred to the approach of Western governments toward the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding this issue, saying: We desire to have healthy and equal relations with those countres that respect our Islamic principles and sanctities. Therefore, any country that in any way wishes to insult those principles will be dealt with in a decisive way.

Foreign Ministry: EC Envoys Must Return First

LD0904145189 Tehrna IRNA in English 1430 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—Iranian ambassadors to the European Community will not return to their places of assignment unless EC diplomatic missions return to Tehran first, the Foreign Ministry announced Sunday.

The ministry, reiterating Iran's commitment to its decisive stand against any insult to Islam said "defending Islam is an inalterable principle of Iran's foreign policy."

The 12 nation EC, misled by the British Government recalled its envoys from Tehran in protest to Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious decree] on February 14 sanctioning execution of Indian born British apostate Salman Rushdie for authoring "The Satanic Verses".

In return Tehran called home its own diplomats from the EC states, and on March 6 severed diplomatic ties with London after serving a seven-day notice.

In the face of worldwide support for the leader of the Islamic revolution's just ruling, most West European states realizing their folly made an open retreat from their earlier stance. To date, Spain, Greece, Sweden and West Germany have quietly sent back their diplomats to Tehran.

Islam decrees death penalty for apostasy, and Iran's initiative led the 46-country Organization of Islamic Conference to brand Rushdie an apostate, in its meeting in Riyadh last month.

Dedicated Muslims have vowed to execute Rushdie—in hiding in Britain—sooner or later, and yesterday President 'Ali Khamene'i reiterated that the Imam's fatwa against the apostate still stands.

Commentary Marks Break in Relations With U.S.
LD0904142189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Station commentary: "The Principles of the Islamic Revolution Are Unavoidable in Political Relations"]

[Text] We are celebrating the 9th anniversary of the severance of relations between Iran and the United States at a time when the Muslim nation of Iran, having removed various obstacles and having experienced various ups and downs, is decisively moving the great economic, social, and political wheels of the country by relying on its own financial and moral reserves.

The break in relations with the United States was a great step forward in the history of the Islamic revolution, in which U.S. imperialism lost its last hope of further plunder and the Iranian nation gained new experiences that made its move toward real independence easier.

Because of its anti-arrogance nature, the Islamic revolution of Iran was subjected to attacks by various conspiracies of U.S. imperialism. Each time it emerged victorious from these arrogant conspiracies.

Even though the varied and complicated U.S. conspiracies did not dwindle following the break in relations but actually continued in new shapes and forms with each passing day, the endeavors of the Islamic revolution to safeguard its values and its decisive position held out against imperialism.

This movement and confrontation continued without pause as a result of Imam Khomeyni's wise leadership until U.S. imperialism finally, after years of doubt, was forced to admit the reality of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], and little by little, to ask for the resumption of political and diplomatic relations with Islamic Iran. Along these same lines, Washington has made repeated official requests for the resumption of political ties.

From the Islamic Republic's point of view, the resumption of ties is not possible or practical—unless, for instance, hostile confrontations are abandoned, the values and principles of the Islamic revolution are respected, and our frozen assets are freed.

The understandable and well-defined positions of the Islamic Republic system is to rely on firm, stable, and unchanging positions, built upon the blood of thousands of martyrs.

IRI officials repeatedly announced that the IRI system will not have relations with countries such as the racist regimes in South Africa and the usurper Israel. On this basis, the IRI is prepared to have healthy and friendly relations with all other countries. However, as the leader and founder of the Islamic revolution said with regard to this issue: The IRI will not accept a lamb-and-wolf relationship, but will keep its neither-East-nor-West principles as the basis of its relations.

Iravani, Soviet Envoy Discuss Cooperation
LD0804185189 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador in Tehran Vladimir Gudev today conferred with Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani on trend [as received] of the decisions made at the end of the eleventh Tehran-Moscow joint economic commission last year.

According to a protocol the two sides will cooperate in bringing Iran's steel mill to its maximum capacity. Cooperation in other areas include dam construction, power plants, setting up a joint shipping line in the Caspian Sea, transportation and border exchanges.

The two sides also placed emphasis on the importance of Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's coming visit to Moscow at the invitation of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Afghan Mujahidin Leader Urges Unity Among Rebels
LD0804121689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the leader of one of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin parties based in Peshawar, who has recently returned from the Jalalabad front, has spoken of the advances made by the Muslim mujahidin. He said that they have fortified their positions 3 km away from Jalalabad. They have encircled the forces of the Kabul regime. He believes that the Kabul regime cannot possibly continue to survive.

Qazi Amin Waqad, the leader of Islamic Unity of Afghanistan, explaining the weaknesses of the seven-party provisional government of the Muslim mujahidin, said: The lack of participation by the eight-party alliance in the provisional government is a basic weakness. So long as this problem is not solved, that government cannot attain recognition at home or abroad.

He added: Only a government can be qualified to represent the Muslim people of Afghanistan while embracing all mujahidin groups. He believes that the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan depends on unity and confidence of all the mujahidin and their leaders. He called on the Islamic states to help form a broadbased Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The leader of Islamic Unity of Afghanistan also criticized the law prohibiting the use of the veil in Turkey and said: All Muslims must declare their opposition to this law.

Paper Examines 'Stalemate' at Jalalabad
LD0804124889 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in an editorial Saturday criticized those who underestimated the mujahidin and came to wrong conclusions in comparing the Soviet pull-out of Afghanistan and the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam.

KAYHAN described such comparison as improper saying "the scope and intensity of the two wars are not in the same league."

It added that the Soviet decision to reach an agreement with the mujahidin for safe departure of the Soviet forces prevented loss of life and chaos.

Unlike the Vietcong and North Vietnamese army, the mujahidin were not in a position to rout the Soviets.

As for President Najibullah's continuing hold of power, the paper said "it could well be attributed to military experience. The difficulty the mujahidin are experiencing in Jalalabad is the natural consequence of never having laid siege to a well fortified city."

"That needs massive coordination and a clear chain of command encompassing all the groups with a military presence there. It is their first such attempt and it is not yet a month old—surely too early to start hand wringing and pointing to the Afghans' unsettled political equations as the crux of the stalemate in Jalalabad."

"From the very beginning outside observers (including Iran's foreign policy establishment) have always been skeptical about the mujahidin's chances for success. Hopefully in post-Soviet Afghanistan, some of that energy for skepticism can be converted into new thinking and initiatives."

"If this comes to pass, it will no longer be necessary to overstate the efficacy of Mr. Gorbachev's policies and talk of possible 'total disaster for the mujahidin and a decisive victory for the Soviets.'"

Khamene'i on Bakhtaran-Kermanshah Name Dispute
LD0904153489 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 9, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i suggests that residents of this western border city be allowed to use the former name of their hometown, "Kermanshah."

During an inspection tour of the province, he told a public gathering that "people can refer to their hometown by its former name Kermanshah, if they do not like the new one Bakhtaran."

"In order to pacify feelings, I think both names can be used by the local populace," Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i proposed.

The western provincial capital was renamed Bakhtaran (literally "westland") after the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, because of hatred of the masses towards the very mention of the word "shah".

But Kermanshah has no connection whatsoever with the defunct shah and the town situated at an altitude of 1418 feet above sea level was founded in pre-Islamic times by a Assanid king, Bahram IV, one of whose epithets was "Kermanshah."

The issue was first raised last October by a prominent member of parliament calling for the restoration of historical names of cities and places which were changed after the overthrow of the monarchy in 1979.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali had told an open session of the Majlis "Kermanshah is Kermanshah... the revolution is in place and will be in place (but) with these (changes of names) we cannot keep the people satisfied."

However, President Khamene'i cautioned that those trying to sow discord among local people and officials "do not like either names, Bakhtaran or Kermanshah."

Tehran, Kerman Drug Distribution Ring Smashed
LD0904105789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] A narcotics distribution gang in Tehran and Kerman has been smashed by the guards of the Antinarcotics Department. Seven smugglers were arrested, and 70 kg of opium and 3 G-3's [rifles] were discovered, all of which were handed over to the judicial authorities.

Country-Wide Appeal Issued for Flood Victims
LD0804134489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Following the unprecedented flooding of rivers in Sistan va Baluchestan Province, which has caused a great deal of damage to farmers despite the efforts of teams in charge of controlling the water level, many villages of the Narui region have been inundated since last night and other villages of the region are now threatened.

The affected region is now tens of kilometers wide, alongside the Sistan Dam and the village of (Horeynak) to the east, that is the road from Zabol to Dehak and the villages of (Kori), (Shabak) and Andelan and Zhaleh. This morning the village of Sar Hadd, along the road

from Zabol to Dehak and also the villages of Hasan Khan, (Alari) and some of other villages along the road from Zabol to Dehak have been flooded.

The Central News Unit report states that the Sistan and Baluchestan Flood Relief Headquarters has issued a statement asking everyone to help their fellow countrymen. It listed the items urgently needed by the affected people as follows: heating equipment, food, clothing, cooking utensils, and other essentials.

Helicopters, Boats Aid Efforts

LD0804140889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] The head of the prime minister's office for special tasks and of the Flood Relief Headquarters based at the prime minister's office announced today that the floods in Zabol region have caused billions of rials worth of damage to agricultural lands, pastures, buildings, roads, and the bridges in the region.

According to a Central News Unit report, he added: According to preliminary estimates, more than 10,000 hectares of agricultural lands of the Sistan plain have been damaged, about 35 villages have been flooded, and 30 other villages are surrounded by floods from which 6,600 rural families have been evacuated so far.

The head of the Flood Relief Headquarters added: The relief and rescue operations which have begun with the assistance of relief and security forces, using seven helicopters, some boats, and one aircraft, is continuing around the clock. He added: Fortunately, as a result of the prompt presence of the relief bodies in assisting those affected by the floods, there have been no casualties.

20,000 Rescued From Floods

LD0904102389 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., April 9, IRNA—More than 20,000 of the flood stricken people in this province have been airlifted to safety, said governor and head of the relief headquarters, Kazemi, today.

He said the group was rescued by Havaniruz (Army Aviation Service) with the help of the ground force of the Army, using helicopters and boats.

As a result of the the flood over the past four days caused by overflow of water from the Hirmand River, at least 100 villages are reportedly stranded, with 40 of them being totally washed away and 20,000 hectares of farm land damaged, he added.

On relief aid provided to the victims, Kazemi said 750 tents have been set up and more than 50 tons of foodstuffs distributed among them. He said the Prime Ministry has mobilized the neighbouring provinces to help the rescue operations.

Meanwhile, the Prime Ministry in a statement called on the Iranians to donate to the flood stricken people of Sistan-Baluchestan Province. The Iranian Red Crescent offices throughout the country are ready to receive public assistance.

Pakistan

Kabul Forces Fire Scud Missile at Peshawar Area

BK0704155289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] A report received from Khyber Agency said that the Kabul forces fired a Scud missile at 0030 last night [1930 GMT 6 April] which landed at Suzuki post, nearly 36 km from Peshawar at the Pakistan-Towr Kham border. As a result, a post office room and a wall collapsed. Doors, windows, and windowpanes of nearby buildings were also shattered, and electricity and telephone wires damaged. No reports of damage to life have been received so far.

Protest Lodged Over Missile

BK0804155989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the Kabul regime on firing a Scud missile at the Towr Kham border post during the night of the 6th and 7th of this month. The missile caused extensive damage to buildings and private property.

The Kabul regime's charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning and was asked to inform his government that the full responsibility of any serious consequences will lie with the Kabul administration. A complaint has also been lodged with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan in this regard, and it has been asked to conduct an inquiry into the blatant violations of the Geneva accords by the Kabul regime.

An official spokesman in Islamabad said today that the firing of the missile [by the Kabul regime] is a brazen act of provocation designed to internationalize the Afghanistan situation and to protect itself from the wrath of its own people. In this context, those [countries], which have supplied such terror weapons to the illegal regime of Kabul, cannot escape the responsibility for the consequences of using such weapons.

Pakistan will take all measures necessary to defend itself and to protect the life and property of its citizens. The spokesman added that it is obvious that this recent act of provocation was timed to coincide with the Kabul regime's request for a UN Security Council debate on the Afghanistan situation. The Kabul regime has made the same oft-repeated, baseless, and absurd allegations against Pakistan while requesting such a debate.

Yaqub Khan Rejects Afghan Interference Claims

BK0804114689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistan has again rejected allegations by the Kabul regime about interference in its international affairs. The rejection has been made in a letter written by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, to the current president of the UN Security Council and delivered by Pakistan's permanent representative, Mr S. Shahnawaz.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the allegations were preposterous. He said the situation in Afghanistan is purely an internal matter which makes Kabul's request for a council debate on the matter as untenable. The foreign minister said the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan has conducted more than 90 inspection visits to the border areas and has not substantiated any of the Kabul regime's allegations. He said the mission has also found no evidence of arms and ammunition being transported into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

Spokesman on Bhutto Trip, UN Afghan Debate

BK0904120289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto is to pay a 3-day official visit to Turkey from the 24th of next month at the invitation of the Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal. This announcement was made by a Foreign Office spokesman while talking to newsmen in Islamabad today. The spokesman said that the dates for the prime minister's visit to France, United Kingdom, and the United States are yet to be fixed.

The spokesman said that negotiations continue on setting the date for talks between the defense secretaries of Pakistan and India, and the [word indistinct] secretary-level talks will be held in Pakistan, most probably in May.

About Afghanistan, the spokesman denied that Pakistan will boycott the forthcoming Security Council meeting requested by the Kabul regime. He said the meeting will give Pakistan an opportunity to present its point of view on the issue. However, the spokesman said that with the presence of an agreed resolution which gave the UN secretary general a mandate to make efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue, Pakistan feels there is no need to bring up the matter at the Security Council. Apart from this, some positive events have occurred in this regard, including the formation of a broad-based interim government by the mujahidin, he added.

The spokesman also denied that negotiations are going on for acquiring two nuclear reprocessing plants from France or any other country and termed these reports as speculative.

27 Arrested in Hyderabad; Curfew Relaxed

BK0704162989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has said that 27 persons have been arrested and arms, including Kalashnikovs and pistols have been seized following violent incidents in Hyderabad yesterday. Addressing a news conference in Karachi this afternoon, he said steps are being taken to seize illegal weapons.

He said an investigation has been ordered, but initial reports say that the violence started from an examination center where some persons tried to help students illegally. When an attempt was made to stop them, they created disturbances which later spread to the city resulting in 13 deaths and many injuries. He said the government does not believe in prejudicial treatment and all those people involved in this incident will be sternly dealt with.

The chief minister appealed to all people, including parents and elders, to assist the government in restoring peace in educational institutions and in the city. He said collective efforts are needed to prevent such incidents. Syed Qaim Ali Shah said the Pakistan People's Party is trying to improve the situation with the cooperation of Muhajir Qaumi Movement. He appealed to all political parties to help the government in realizing this goal.

Curfew was relaxed in Hyderabad from 1330 to 1500 [0830-1000 GMT] today so that people could offer Friday prayers. During curfew relaxation there was no report of any untoward incident from any part of the city. At Friday prayers congregations, preachers urged the people to remain calm and to forget their petty differences. They said it is the religious and ethical responsibility of all of us to forge unity in our ranks and protect the life and property of one another. Special prayers were offered for those killed in the firing incident yesterday. There were also prayers for the solidarity and well-being of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, motorcycle riding by more than one person has been prohibited within the Hyderabad district limits for 30 days. However, this will not apply to women.

Curfew will be relaxed in Hyderabad and Latifabad tomorrow from 0700 to 0900 in the morning and from 1600 to 1800 in the evening. The employees of (?essential services) have been exempted from curfew restrictions, but they will have to produce identity cards of their departments.

Sri Lanka

1-Week Cease-Fire To Begin 12 Apr

BK1004114389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1016 GMT 10 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 10 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan Government today announced that it had decided to suspend security operations islandwide for

one week, commencing April 12th, in order to give effect to the appeal made by President Ranasinghe Premadasa at Girandurukotte on April 3d for those engaged in violence to lay down their arms and ente. the democratic political process.

The announcement was made in Colombo today, by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne who said that the suspension of cordon, search and surveillance operations would commence at 0600 hours (local time) on April 12th and continue till 0600 hours (local time) on April 19th in the first instance, in order to facilitate those wishing to answer President Premadasa's call.

Mr. Wijeratne, said that the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] had agreed to the suspension of security operations in the north and east in acceding to the request of the Sri Lankan Government to do so. He said a total of 228 reception centres will be open to receive all those who respond to this call.

Among those manning the reception centres will be eminent civilians such as professors of universities, religious dignitaries, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the government agents of the respective areas.

They will counsel those laying down arms, give them vocational training and guide them to enter the normal social economic and political activities of the country.

Mr. Wijeratne said the significance of this offer of amnesty was that it was being made during the Sinhala and Tamil new year period, which was a period of goodwill. In answer to a question Mr. Wijeratne said we are not fighting a war, hence the word surrender is not being used. He further said that the misguided youth cannot be discarded but guided onto the right path.

The minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence said that all major political parties in Sri Lanka have agreed on the suspension of security operations in the first instance.

In answer to another question he said that the armed services and police were ready to deal with any serious incidents, any eventualities, which may occur during this period. Mr. Wijeratne stressed that the offer of amnesty and rehabilitation was genuine.

Following is the text of a press release issued following the news conference held by minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence.

In order to give effect to the appeal made by his excellency the president in his address at Girandurukotte, all persons who have been involved in acts of violence and sabotage, and those who have been even remotely connected with such activities, are hereby requested to report at the following places that have been selected as reception centres in districts throughout the island where they will be received.

Once these persons are received at the centres, they will be taken to a central reception centre which will be located in Colombo or the outskirts where they will be required to fill up a form requesting for any vocational training of their choice. At this central reception centre, there will also be eminent civilian personnel who will talk to them and guide them to enter the normal social, economic and political activities of the country.

These persons will be protected, looked after and will be provided with accommodation, food and clothing during this process. They will be eligible for the amnesty that his excellency the president wishes to grant, as already given in other similar cases.

In order to facilitate those wishing to answer this call, the government has decided to suspend the present cordon and search and surveillance operations conducted by the armed services and the police during the period 6 am 12/04/89 to 6 am 19/04/89, in the first instance.

In addition to those persons who have been involved in acts of violence and other unlawful activities who will respond to this call, all deserters of the armed services may also make use of this opportunity to report at the reception centres or at their respective service establishments and they too will be received in a similar manner as the others without discrimination.

96 Youths Surrender After Premadasa Appeal

BK0904112289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1058 GMT 9 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 April (LANKAPUVATH)—A total of 96 youths, who have been involved in subversive activities have surrendered to the authorities. Consequent to the appeal made by Sri Lankan President R. Premadasa in his address at Girandurukotte, several youths who have been involved in subversives activities have given themselves up.

Forty surrendered at Anuradhapura in the north central province, 43 in Kurunegala, Northwestern Province, four in Moneragala, Uva Province, six in Galle, Southern Province and three in Matara also in the south.

In the meantime, information is being received from other areas regarding the willingness of several other persons, who wish to respond to this call, states a government communique issued today.

The communique further states that these persons are being well looked after and have been given food, clothing and accommodation. They will shortly be taken to vocational centres, where they will be given a training

of their choice along with others to get gainful employment and to take part in the normal social economic and political activities of the country.

A further communication in this regard will be issued tomorrow once arrangements at the reception centres in the various districts throughout the country have been finalised and civilian officers stationed at these centres.

Other arrangements to facilitate those who answer this call will also be setout. The government, most opposition parties, and nongovernmental organisations have pledged their full support to assist and provide guidance to those who respond to this call.

'Terrorists' Kill 18 Indian Soldiers in Vavuniya

BK0704111389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1009 GMT 7 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 April (LANKAPUVATH)—Eighteen Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] soldiers were killed, when terrorists ambushed an IPKF foot patrol at 0730 hours [0200 GMT] yesterday, at Olumadu in the northern Vavuniya sector. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the weapons of the soldiers had also been removed by the terrorists.

Landmines Kill 10 Policemen, Injure 8

BK0704131889 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Ten policemen and a civilian were killed by a landmine set off by the subversives in Hambantota this morning. Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that during a police patrol at (Kudadanguwa) in Lunuganwehera of Hambantota District, subversives set off a landmine, killing six policemen, a civilian, and the manager of a cooperative society and injuring five policemen. Four policemen were killed and three injured when subversives detonated a landmine in (Hingama) of Hambantata District this morning.

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